BIG BATTLE VS. JETS

Detailed Preview
Begins On Page 8

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A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

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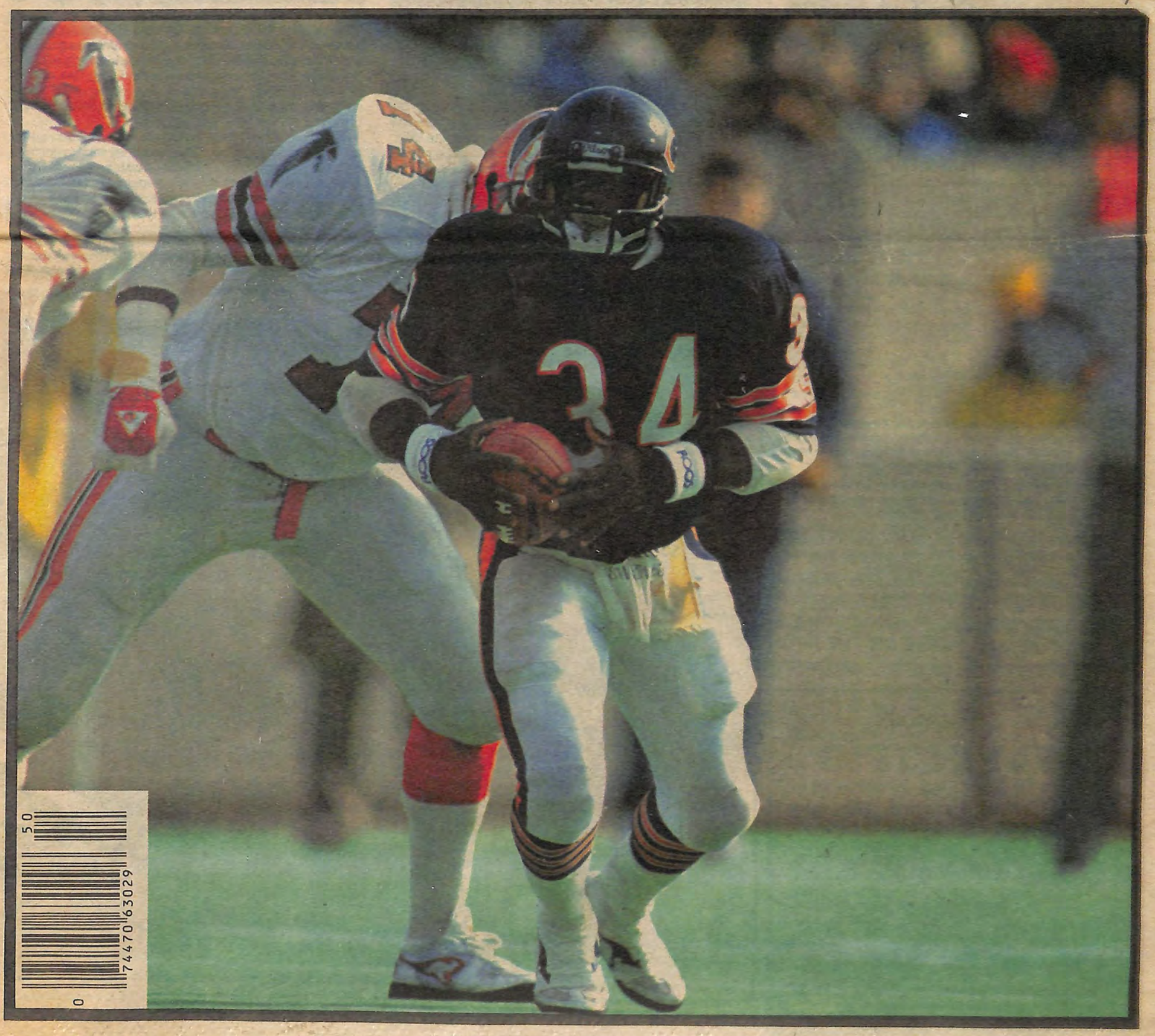

DOUG BUFFONE'S Chicago BEAR REPORT

A Newspaper Devoted Exclusively
To The Chicago Bears and The NFL

Vol. 10, No. 20 December 12, 1985

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RUNNING back Walter Payton has rushed for over 100 yards in nine consecutive games. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Commentary

By Doug Buffone

Criticism Of Bears Unjust

It's easy to get spoiled when you follow a team that has won 13 of its 14 games this season, but I think some of the fans and certain media members are getting a little carried away in their criticism of the Bears.

After the loss to Miami, certain people reacted like the season has ended. Some journalists even started to express certain doubts that the Bears would advance past their first playoff game, regardless of who the opponent is. That's asinine. But things got worse after the 17-10 victory over the Colts last Sunday.

OBVIOUSLY A LOT of people, including media members, lost a bundle on this game because there is no excuse for the post-game reaction. It was as if the victory was meaningless because the Bears didn't win by enough points. I think I better check with the NFL office. Maybe there is a rule that states a team gets more credit for a victory by 20 points than by 10.

Granted, the Colts aren't exactly the second-coming of the Raiders, but they are still a solid football team which has given a lot of opponents problems this year. The Dolphins and Patriots didn't exactly have a field day against this club.

It would be nice for the Bears to win 44-0 every week but that's about as realistic as Anchorage, Alaska getting a NFL franchise. There are bound to be games during the course of a season that will be close and this was one of them. It didn't matter who the opposition was. The only important fact is the Bears won. The Bear players will be the first to admit they could have played better but none of them are complaining they are credited with a victory.

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND why the critics are getting on the Bears' case. This team has already clinched the home field advantage in the playoffs and it will win more regular season games than any other NFL club this year regardless of what happens in the next two weeks. What's wrong with that?

Every team in the NFL strives for a playoff spot and the Bears earned that weeks ago. The next step was clinching home field advantage for the playoffs and the Bears also wrapped that up with little trouble. While the Bears would like to win their remaining two regular season games to finish at 15-1, it won't be the end of the world if they lose one or both.

The mostimportant thing about winning the next two games is the momentum factor going into the playoffs. As Mike Ditka said last Sunday, the teams that go limping into the playoffs limp out pretty fast. But the fact of the matter is the Bears' record will be meaningless once the playoffs begin. Other than the home field advantage, the Bears won't get any special benefits by being 15-1, or 14-2 or whatever. Their opponent in the opening round could come in with a 10-6 mark and still have a 50-50 chance of winning.

There are a few things the Bears must sharpen up on in these final two contests. Obviously, they want to get their passing game in gear. With Jim McMahon back at the helm, it's time to open things up again. Walter Payton's running has been phenomenal, but the Bears will need a solid passing attack to win in the playoffs.

The other thing the Bears need to work on is stopping the big passing plays when an opposing quarterback rolls out. There is no excuse for that long touchdown pass by the Colts late in the game. The Bears must solve this problem, and quickly.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

Doug Buffone's selections for the 15th week of the regular season can be found on page 10 of this issue.

DEFENSIVE TACKLE DAN Hampton (left) tries to restrain linebacker Wilber Marshall during an argument with an official. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Payton Goes Over 100 Yards Again

Bears Survive a Scare From the Colts

By Mark Friedlander
Editor

Maybe the fans and the oddsmakers figured the Bears would destroy the Indianapolis Colts last Sunday at Soldier Field, but head coach Mike Ditka thought his club would have a tough time with the visitors from the south.

"Coming into the game, I really thought it was going to be a 10-point, or 7 or 13-point game. I didn't see it being a blowout like everyone said it was going to be. The Colts are going in the right direction. They've got some excellent young players. They took it to us and played very well," Ditka said after his team escaped with a 17-10 win over the lowly Colts.

DESPITE WHAT DITKA said, his players weren't too thrilled with having to fight for their lives vs. a team which had won only three games prior to this one. After all, the Bears have won the most games in the league (13) and are already assured of home field advantage throughout the playoffs.

"We were playing lackadaisical at first. We were not as motivated as the Indianapolis Colts were," said guard Tom Thayer.

"We were looking pretty bad out there for awhile," added LB Mike Singletary. "I can't say a letdown against a team like this is natural because we've got to be ready every week. This is professional football. You are paid to play hard every week."

BUT WHEN THE MARBLES were on the table, the Bears proved why they are a team with a Super Bowl in its future. The game was tied at three at the half, but the Bears came alive in the final two quarters. The offense got its patented running game in gear and the defense totally dominated except for one long touchdown pass by QB Mike Pagel in the final quarter. That play narrowed the lead to 17-10, but the Bears held the ball for the final 5:49.

"It was a brand new ballgame in the second half," said TE Emery Moorehead. "We had to take it away from them. You're happy for any kind of win. It doesn't matter if you win by one point or 17. It's wins and losses that counts."

"The Colts played us tough throughout the contest," said QB Jim McMahon who made his first start in four weeks after being sidelined with a shoulder injury. "They came out here to play us and beat us. It almost

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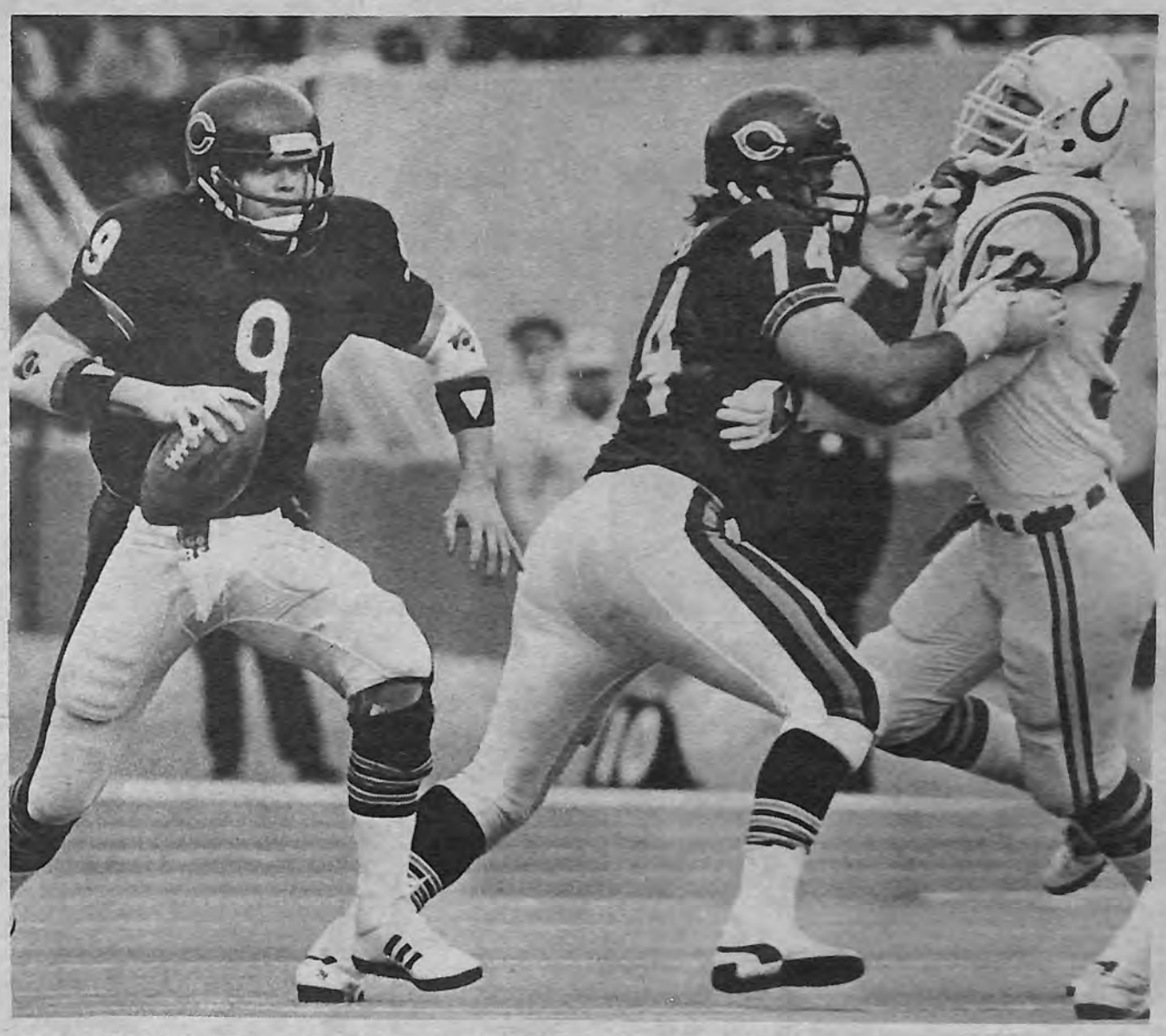
DEFENSIVE TACKLE WILLIAM Perry levels Indianapolis fullback Randy McMillan. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



QUARTERBACK JIM McMAHON takes off on a scramble which produced first-down yardage in the second quarter. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Special Playoff Issues

The **BEAR REPORT** will print special playoff issues on Monday, Dec. 30 and Monday, Jan. 6. These issues will be a FREE bonus to all current subscribers of the publication. The issues will also be available on newsstands throughout the midwest at the usual $1.25 cover price. For advertising information concerning these issues, please call 312/459-6899.

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Bears-Colts Official Stats

SCORING SUMMARY

Indianapolis Colts	0	3	0	7	— 10
Chicago Bears	0	3	7	7	— 17

C. Bears, 2, Butler, 20-yd. field goal (13-77)
I. Colts, 2, Allegre, 30-yd. field goal (10-56)
C. Bears, 3, Payton, 16-yd. run (11-63) (Butler kick)
C. Bears, 4, Thomas, 3-yd. run (Butler kick) (10-45)
I. Colts, 4, Capers, 61-yd. pass from Pagel (Allegre kick) (3-51)

Weather: Partly sunny, 76% humidity, temperature: 36 degrees, wind and direction: west at 7 mph

Attendance: 59,997, tickets distributed 65,790; unused: 5,793; time 2:49

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Colts	Bears
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	10	22
By Rushing	3	13
By Passing	6	7
By Penalty	1	2
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	6-13	8-15
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	0-0	1-1
TOTAL NET YARDS	232	328
Total Off. Plays (Inc. times passing)	46	70
Av. Gain per Off. Play	5.0	4.7
NET YARDS RUSHING	99	191
Total Rushing Plays	21	44
Av. Gain Per Rush. Play	4.7	4.3
NET YARDS PASSING	133	137
Times Thrown — Yds. Lost Att. To Pass	1-10	3-8
Gross Yds. Passing	143	145
PASS ATT. — COMP. — HAD INTERCEPTED	24-10-0	23-11-0
Av. Gain Per Pass Play (Inc. times thrown passing)	5.7	5.6
PUNTS — NO. AND AV.	4-49.5	4-43.5
Had Blocked	0	0
TOTAL RET. YARDAGE	117	93
No. and Yds. Punt Ret.	1-6	3-40
No. and Yds. KO Returns	4-111	3-53
No. and Yds. Interc. Ret.	0-0	0-0
PENALTIES — NO. AND YDS.	3-25	5-45
FUMBLES — NO. AND LOST	0-0	0-0
TOUCHDOWNS	1	2
Rushing	0	2
Passing	1	0
Returns	0	0
EXTRA POINTS MADE — ATT.	1-1	2-2
FG MADE — ATT.	3-1	1-1
TIME OF POSSESSION	21:05	38:55

FINAL INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Indianapolis Colts

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
McMillan	13	61	4.7	25	0
Wonsley	7	42	6.0	36	0
Capers	1	-4	-4.0	0	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Pagel	24	10	143	1/10	1	61	0

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Beach	3	35	17	0
Bentley	1	16	16	0
Boyer	1	2	2	0
O. Williams	1	10	10	0
Bouza	2	16	12	0
McMillan	1	3	3	0
Capers	1	61	61	1

INTERCEPTIONS
None

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Stark	4	198	49.5	0	0	55

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Martin	1	0	6	6	0
*Touchback	1				
Downed	1				
*Out of bounds	1				

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Williams	1	18	18	0
Bentley	2	74	48	0
Martin	1	19	19	0

FUMBLES
None

Chicago Bears

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Payton	26	111	4.3	16	1
Suhey	8	17	2.1	7	0
McMahon	5	36	7.2	15	0
Thomas	5	27	5.4	8	1

QUARTERBACK JIM McMAHON congratulates Calvin Thomas after the Bear fullback scores a touchdown. (Bear *Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)*

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
McMahon	23	11	145	3/8	0	30	0

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Gentry	2	38	30	0
Moorehead	1	24	24	0
Payton	2	23	15	0
Gault	3	36	21	0
Margerum	1	7	7	0
Suhey	2	17	13	0

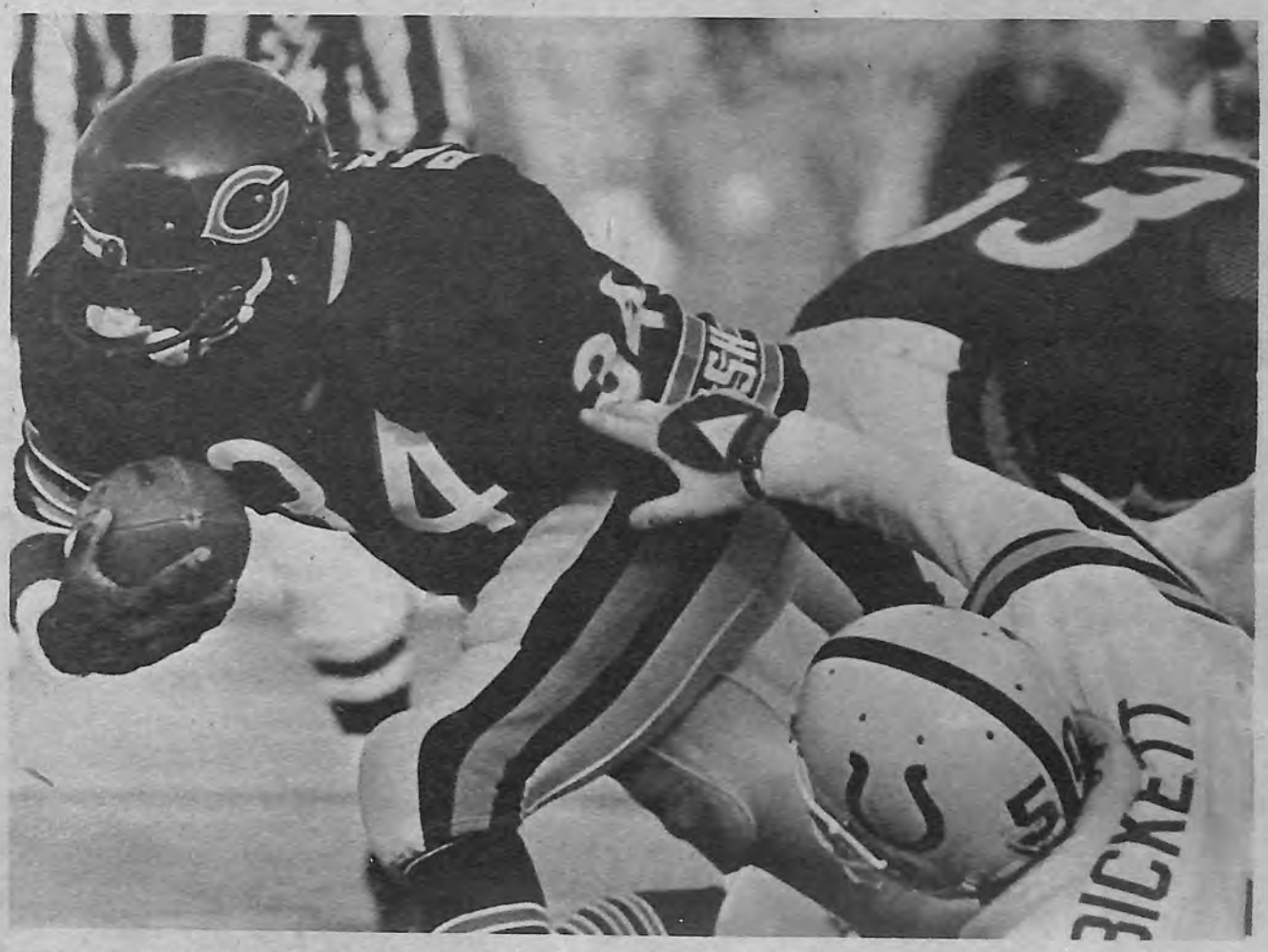
INTERCEPTIONS
None

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Buford	4	174	43.5	1	2	64

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Ortego	3	0	40	15	0
*Downed	1				

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Gentry	3	53	28	0

FUMBLES
None



RUNNING BACK WALTER Payton tries to break away from Indianapolis linebacker Duane Bickett. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS
(Unofficial)

Colts

	T	A	SK	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Glasgow	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
Davis	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Young	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
Daniel	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Lee	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Bickett	7	1	1	4	0	0	0
Krause	2	2	0	0	0	1	0
Broughton	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Smith	2	0	1	2	0	0	0
White	4	3	0	0	0	0	0
Odom	10	3	0	0	0	1	0
Virkus	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scott	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
Cooks	4	1	1	2	0	0	0
Thompson	6	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Hilgenberg Always Has a Chip On His Shoulder

Four years ago, when the Bears signed Steve McMichael off the NFL scrap heap, they planned to make him a center, Dan Neal was near the end of his career, and the only other center they had was an undrafted rookie named Jay Hilgenberg.

Two years ago, the Bears drafted Tom Thayer in the fourth round. Neal could barely walk by then. Thayer was going to be their center of the future, although it became the distant future when he signed with the USFL. That free agent kid, Hilgenberg would have to do until then.

"I THINK FREE AGENTS are treated differently," Hilgenberg says now. "I think all the way through your career, you're treated different from a No. 1 draft choice. In every way. I think you tend to be taken for granted more.

"That just adds to my determination, I suppose. That's basically a compliment, being taken for granted."

By the time Thayer joined the Bears, they had taken Hilgenberg for granted in the most pleasant sense. They could plan their offense without having to account for the other team's nose tackle. Hilgenberg would handle him by himself.

FEW TEAMS CAN do that. Most centers need help from a guard to block nose tackles. Since Hilgenberg does not, the Bears are not so vulnerable against the "46" defense that has spread like a virus around the league. And against standard 3-4 defenses, he frees the guards to cut off the inside linebackers, whom most teams expect to chase down the ball carrier.

It's a big reason the Bears are leading the league in rushing for the third straight year. They had three 200-yard games in four weeks before Atlanta held them to a paltry 184. At Miami, Walter Payton broke the NFL record of seven straight 100-yard games and made a serious charge for the NFL rushing title.

"Jay's the best center in the NFC," says McMichael, the defensive tackle who practices against him every day. "He's the best technician. He works hard in practice.

"IT HELPS TO practice against somebody who's better than the person you're going to go against in the game. Geez, the game's fun when you do that."

"Technician" isn't a euphemism for an offensive lineman. It's high praise.

Offensive linemen don't overpower 280-pound opponents. They use leverage. Good techniques and good blocking are practically synonyms.

A GOOD BLOCKER fights his instincts. He stays low when his back wants to straighten up. He keeps his elbows at his ribs when they want to come out to help

By Kevin Lamb

his hands push forward. He keeps his feet moving when he isn't running anywhere. He has to concentrate.

He can't use the same techniques on every defender. For Atlanta, Mike Pitts uses quickness, Dan Benish uses strength. To decide how to block them, Hilgenberg watched film of them. He had to concentrate.

On many plays, Hilgenberg and a guard will pair off two-on-two. They won't know who blocks whom until the play begins. They'll have to concentrate.

"AFTER A GAME, I'm usually much more worn out mentally than physically," Hilgenberg says.

An offensive lineman's job is nine parts concentration for every one part demolition. He's tired on Sunday nights, but he usually doesn't get to sleep until long past midnight. Even if his body feels like a giant pinball, it takes hours for his mind to float down from the ceiling to the pillow.

"As soon as the quarterback calls a play in the huddle, you're just totally absorbed in that one play," Hilgenberg says. "On the way up to the ball, you'll say something to the guards about a possible way you can block the play. When you're over the ball, you look at the defense, the way they're lined up. You also think of their tendencies, what they're likely to do on this down and distance.

"YOU'RE TALKING TO the guards while you're over the ball. You make blocking calls if the defense shifts. Other times, you'll make fake calls. If you're going to throw a pass, maybe you give run calls you used earlier.

"Plus, you also try to listen to the defense. Maybe you can pick up what they're going to do.

"That's all intense concentration. So is the blocking after you snap the ball.

"You try to get a real good technique. If you're in the shotgun, you have to be sure you get the ball back to the quarterback all right. If it's a run block, you have to get your hands inside real quick, get into your guy real quick."

THE BEARS' PRACTICES have swayed full circle from physical emphasis to mental emphasis in Mike Ditka's four years as coach. He has made the change on purpose.

It's hard to think straight while gasping for breath. It's hard to win without a clear head.

"The most important thing for our team is to be mentally prepared for every game," Hilgenberg says. The Bears have done it. That's why they're 11-0.

IT MEANS KNOWING the plays in the game plan. It means knowing what the defense is likely to do. It means adjusting the plays to what the defense does.

It means not being surprised.

"We've gone into games many times this year where the defense has thrown everything it has at us, and we were never surprised by anything," Hilgenberg says. "Sometimes they've got us off-guard. We were frustrated at Tampa Bay. But we made adjustments and had a good second half."

EVERY WEEK, THE players on offense and defense talk about how well the coaches prepared them. That's what they mean. To Hilgenberg, it's something that goes back to the playoff game against Washington last season, when the Bears spent the previous week near Atlanta.

"That's when we really learned to be mentally prepared," he says. "Getting away like that, everything was just football.

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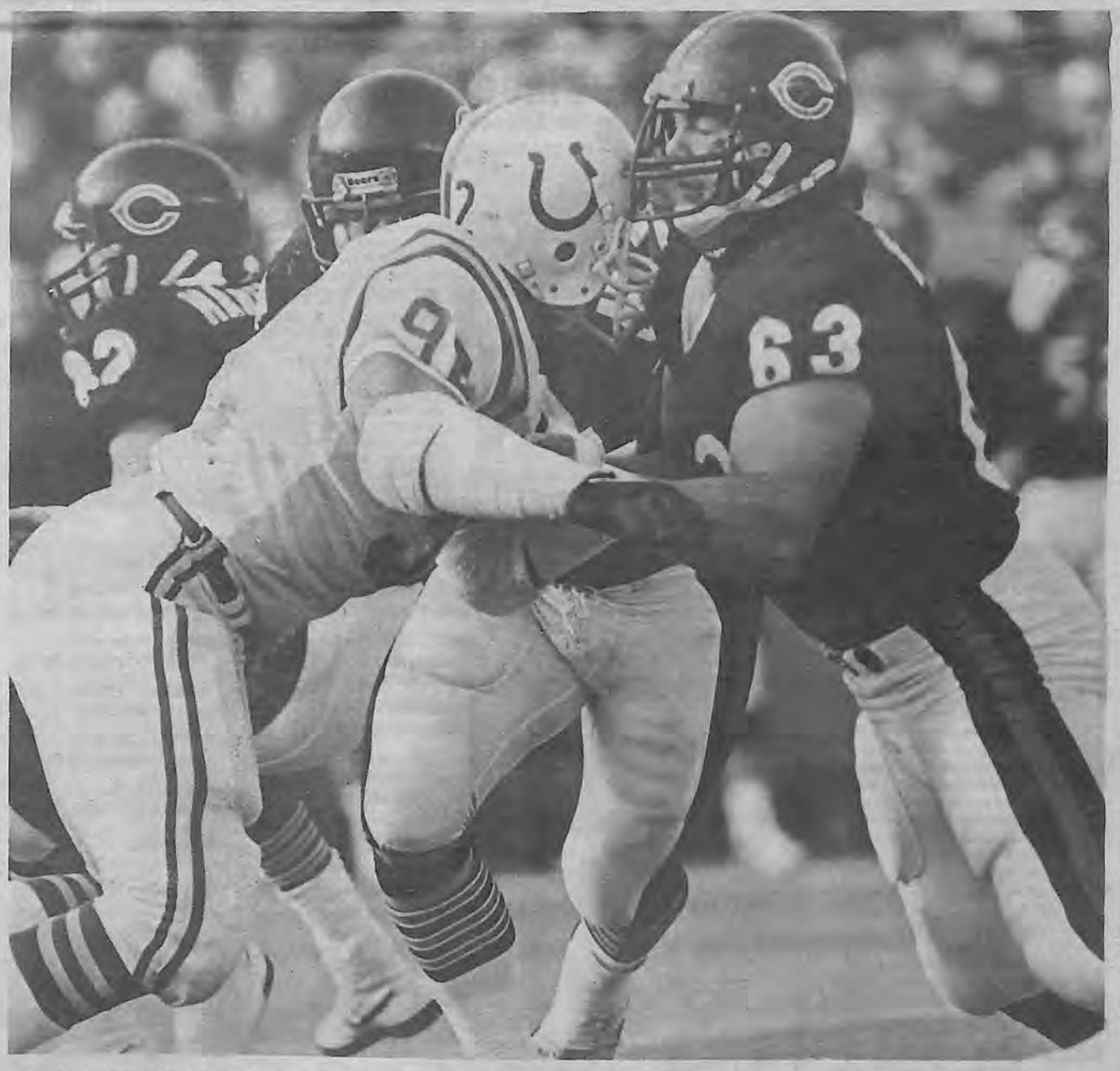

CENTER JAY HILGENBERG (right) battles with Indianapolis defensive tackle Brad White. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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CENTER JAY HILGENBERG

Hilgenberg

Continued From Page 5

"If you're mentally prepared, if your concentrating and if you're fired up to play a good game, you're going to have a good game. Getting fired up should be no problem. It's your job. If you can't get fired up for 16 games, you should look for another job."

HILGENBERG CAN'T IMAGINE that problem. Remember, he was a free agent. "Not being drafted," he says, "I kind of came into this league with a chip on my shoulder. I wanted to prove they made a mistake. I never quit trying to prove that point."

That kind of sums up the season for all the Bears. They don't seem to think they can score enough points to prove the point that they're no longer also-rans.

So they haven't celebrated. One game dovetails to the next. The night they drubbed Atlanta, coach Mike Ditka said he couldn't help himself from thinking about Miami.

HILGENBERG WOULD HAVE been thinking about Miami, too, except he had to scour his mind of all the information he had collected on Atlanta. Since Wednesday, he had crammed it full of lines from the game plan, notes from the film study, conversations with the guards.

"It's basically a 9-to-5 job," he says, "but it's always on my mind." Emptying it, to make room for the dope on Miami, was not like erasing a chalkboard.

"You're so wound up, usually I lie in bed until 3 or 4 o'clock," Hilgenberg says. "I think about what went on in the game. A lot went on in that short period of time. It's hard to turn it off."

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VIDEOTAPE 2 Part B
Passing and Pass Receiving

VIDEOTAPE 3 Part A
Defensive Line Play

VIDEOTAPE 3 Part B
Line Backers and Defensive Backs

VIDEOTAPE 4 Part A
Power Sweeps

VIDEOTAPE 4 Part B
The Running Game: Part 1

VIDEOTAPE 5 Part A
The Running Game: Part 2

VIDEOTAPE 5 Part B
The Passing Game

VIDEOTAPE 6 Part A
Defense Against the Run

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Bears Have Much To Prove vs. Jets

The 13-1 Chicago Bears will be tested in several areas this week at New York against the playoff-bound Jets. They'll be on national TV again and that's always enough to get the juices flowing.

They'll be in New York, the media mecca, so all those Pro Bowl votes will be at stake. And they'll be facing the #1 ranked passer in the NFL, Ken O'Brien. Please, one at a time.

THE JETS HAVE always been a glamour team, playing in New York and drafting the brash Joe Namath who went on to the Hall of Fame, *Monday Night Football* and fatherhood all in the same year. The Jets and Namath became the first AFL team to beat the older league in the Super Bowl, giving merger a decent connotation. Watching the Bears' defense go up against the explosive New York offense will be fun. You can also make up your own mind when answering the question — is Mark Gastineau overrated?

At Miami, the Bears faced the Dan Marino to Mark Duper Connection. In New York, it's Ken O'Brien to Wesley Walker. Last Sunday, that combination produced the longest touchdown pass in Jets' history, 98 yards. With all the press over the Bears' defense blitzing, thus leaving the cornerbacks naked, it will be interesting to watch how Walker fares against Mike Richardson. Last week, Richardson was burned as the Colts' Mike Pagel hit Wayne Capers for a 61-yard TD. Richardson fell in Miami on another TD.

It's doubtful Freeman McNeil will be 100 percent since he's been hurt most of the year, but Payton vs. McNeil would be nice to see. The The Jets' rookie from Wisconsin, Al Toon, will be on display. This guy has begun to show the form that made him All-Big Ten and the fact he is a big play guy won't hurt O'Brien's arsenal.

THE PASS RUSH will be a key on Saturday. In the last two games the Bears have been victimized by the moving pocket approach of Marino and Pagel.

"We've got to concentrate on keeping the quarterback in the pocket," said Mike Singletary. "We're starting to see more of the mobile quarterback attack because of the success we had in the first 12 games."

Another angle to look for is containment from the linebackers and the pass rush. The linebackers in particular will be called upon to keep O'Brien from roaming all over the Meadowlands. Wilber Marshall said, "We must get back to the basics," after the 17-10 victory over the Colts last week. "It's up to the linebackers to do the job and contain on the weak side when the quarterback starts to roam. If you give any quarterback in this league enough time, he'll hurt you, so we better get back to basics."

FACING O'BRIEN will be a challenge because this guy is not bothered by pressure. Against New England recently, he suffered six sacks and still completed 20 of 33 passes for 311 yards and one touchdown. The Jets' pitcher is the numero uno in the league in lowest interceptions. He'll take the sack before throwing into coverage. Getting dumped only serves to fire him up. He should see a lot of Otis Wilson on Saturday.

By now the attention of the national media should be getting easy to handle, so going into New York with the league's best record is not going to affect the Bears this time. Pat Summerall and John Madden have become semi-regulars on the Bears' beat. Some of the Bears have designs on the Pro Bowl and a good performance in the

By Dick Gonski

Big Apple wouldn't hurt a guy's chances.

The Bears are coming off a loss to Miami and an admittedly flat first half in the win over the Colts. The Meadowlands will be jammed, so it's doubtful they'll be flat this time. The Jets would like to clinch a tie for the AFC East and doing it at the hands of the 13-1 Bears would sweeten the accomplishment. Look for more delays at the line of scrimmage as the 75,000 fans scream for bloody murder in the Meadowlands, the land of the Giants.

THE BEARS ALSO have incentive on their side. Walter

Continued Page 16

PUNTER Maury Buford had another phenomenal game last Sunday. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

THE BEAR DEFENSE gangs up on Indianapolis halfback Otis Wonsley. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Giants Stadium
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11:30 a.m. CST

Chicago Bears' Numerical Roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
4	Steve Fuller	QB	6-4	195	28	7	Clemson
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	204	23	R	Georgia
8	Maury Buford	P	6-0	191	25	4	Texas Tech
9	Jim McMahon	QB	6-1	190	25	4	BYU
18	Mike Tomczak	QB	6-1	195	22	R	Ohio St.
21	Leslie Frazier	CB	6-0	187	26	5	Alcorn St.
22	Dave Duerson	S	6-1	203	24	3	Notre Dame
23	Shaun Gayle	CB	5-11	193	23	2	Ohio St.
26	Matt Suhey	FB	5-11	216	27	6	Penn St.
27	Mike Richardson	CB	6-0	188	24	3	Arizona St.
29	Dennis Gentry	RB	5-8	181	26	4	Baylor
31	Thomas Sanders	RB	5-11	203	23	R	Texas A&M
31	Ken Taylor	CB	6-1	185	21	R	Oregon St.
33	Calvin Thomas	FB	5-11	245	25	4	Illinois
34	Walter Payton	RB	5-10	202	31	11	Jackson St.
45	Gary Fencik	S	6-1	196	31	10	Yale
48	Reggie Phillips	DB	5-10	170	24	R	S. Methodist
50	Mike Singletary	LB	6-0	228	26	5	Baylor
51	Jim Morrissey	LB	6-3	215	22	R	Michigan St.
52	Cliff Thrift	LB	6-1	230	29	7	E.C. Oklahoma
55	Otis Wilson	LB	6-2	232	27	6	Louisville
57	Tom Thayer	G-C	6-4	261	23	R	Notre Dame
58	Wilber Marshall	LB	6-1	225	23	2	Florida
59	Ron Rivera	LB	6-3	239	23	2	California
60	Tom Andrews	OL	6-4	267	24	2	Louisville
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	269	24	3	Iowa
63	Jay Hilgenberg	C	6-3	258	26	5	Iowa
70	Henry Waechter	DT	6-5	275	26	4	Nebraska
71	Andy Frederick	T	6-6	265	31	9	New Mexico
72	William Perry	DT	6-2	325	22	R	Clemson
73	Mike Hartenstine	DE	6-3	254	32	11	Pennsylvania St.
74	Jim Covert	T	6-4	271	25	3	Pittsburgh
75	Stefan Humphries	G	6-3	263	23	2	Michigan
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	260	27	6	Texas
78	Keith Van Horne	T	6-6	280	27	5	USC
80	Tim Wrightman	TE	6-3	237	25	R	UCLA
82	Ken Margerum	WR	6-0	180	26	4	Stanford
83	Willie Gault	WR	6-0	178	24	3	Tennessee
85	Dennis McKinnon	WR	6-1	185	23	3	Florida St.
86	Brad Anderson	WR	6-2	198	24	2	Arizona
87	Emery Moorehead	TE	6-2	220	31	9	Colorado
89	Keith Ortego	WR	6-0	180	22	R	McNeese St.
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	263	24	3	Tennessee St.
98	Tyrone Keys	DE	6-7	267	25	3	Mississippi St.
99	Dan Hampton	DT	6-5	267	27	7	Arkansas

COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Mike Ditka

ASSISTANTS: Jim Dooley, Dale Haupt, Ed Hughes, Steve Kazor, Jim LaRue, Ted Plumb, Johnny Roland, Buddy Ryan, Dick Stanfel.

LINEBACKER CHARLES JACKSON

New York Jets' Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
5	Pat Leahy	K	6-0	193	34	12	St. Louis
7	Ken O'Brien	QB	6-4	208	24	3	Cal.-Davis
10	Pat Ryan	QB	6-3	210	30	8	Tennessee
13	Dave Jennings	P	6-4	200	33	12	St. Lawrence
20	Davlin Mullen	CB	6-1	177	25	3	W. Kentucky
21	Kirk Springs	S	6-0	197	27	5	Miami, Ohio
23	Dennis Bligen	RB	5-11	209	23	2	St. John's
24	Freeman McNeil	RB	5-11	212	26	5	UCLA
26	Lester Lyles	LB	6-3	209	22	R	Virginia
29	Johnny Lynn	DB	6-0	198	28	6	UCLA
34	Johnny Hector	RB	5-11	197	24	3	Texas A&M
35	Kerry Glenn	CB	5-9	175	23	R	Minnesota
36	Rich Miano	S	6-0	200	23	R	Hawaii
38	Larry Flowers	S	6-1	190	27	5	Texas Tech
39	Harry Hamilton	S	6-0	193	22	2	Penn State
40	Bobby Jackson	CB	5-10	180	28	8	Florida State
49	Tony Paige	FB	5-10	220	23	2	Virginia Tech
50	Bob Crable	LB	6-3	229	26	4	Notre Dame
53	Jim Sweeney	OL	6-4	266	23	2	Pittsburgh
55	Charles Jackson	LB	6-2	224	30	8	Washington
56	Lance Mehl	LB	6-3	233	27	6	Penn State
58	Matt Monger	LB	6-1	235	23	R	Oklahoma St.
59	Kyle Clifton	LB	6-4	233	23	2	TCU
60	Dan Alexander	G	6-4	260	30	9	Louisiana St.
63	Ted Banker	OL	6-2	255	24	2	S.E. Missouri
64	Guy Bingham	OL	6-3	255	27	6	Montana
65	Joe Fields	C	6-2	253	31	11	Widener
66	Billy Shields	T	6-8	279	32	11	Georgia Tech
68	Reggie McElroy	T	6-6	270	25	3	W. Texas St.
73	Joe Klecko	DL	6-3	263	31	9	Temple
76	Ben Rudolph	DE	6-5	271	28	5	Long Beach St.
78	Barry Bennett	DL	6-4	260	25	8	Concordia
79	Marvin Powell	T	6-5	270	30	9	S. California
81	Billy Griggs	TE	6-3	230	23	1	Virginia
82	Mickey Shuler	TE	6-3	231	29	8	Penn State
83	JoJo Townsell	WR	5-9	179	25	R	UCLA
84	Bobby Humphery	WR	5-10	180	24	2	New Mex. St.
85	Wesley Walker	WR	6-0	182	30	9	California
87	Kurt Sohn	WR	5-11	180	28	4	Fordham
88	Al Toon	WR	6-4	200	22	R	Wisconsin
89	Rocky Klever	TE	6-3	225	26	3	Montana
93	Marty Lyons	DL	6-5	269	28	7	Alabama
94	Rusty Guilbeau	LB	6-4	237	27	4	McNeese State
95	Tom Baldwin	DT	6-4	275	24	2	Tulsa
99	Mark Gastineau	DE	6-5	265	29	7	E. Central Okla.

COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Joe Walton

ASSISTANTS: Bud Carson, Rich Kotite, Bill Austin, Zeke Bratkowski, Ray Callahan, Mike Faulkiner, Bobby Hammond, Larry Pasquale, Dan Radakovich.

Special to the BEAR REPORT

ORCHARD PARK, NY — If there is any team which looks like a carbon copy of the Chicago Bears, it's got to be the New York Jets.

Co-leaders in the AFC East with a 10-4 record, the Jets possess an excellent quarterback (Ken O'Brien), a superb running back (Freeman McNeil) and a potent defense led by a dominating line. Sound familiar Bear fans?

THE ONLY DIFFERENCE between the two clubs is the Jets are still fighting for a playoff berth while the Bears have already clinched the home field advantage in the playoffs. If the Jets lose to the Bears next Saturday at the Meadowlands, they may be watching the playoffs on television.

Last Sunday, the Jets stayed in the thick of their division race by defeating the Buffalo Bills, 27-7. They did it with a combination of great passing, great running and great defense. O'Brien, the leading

Continued Page 10

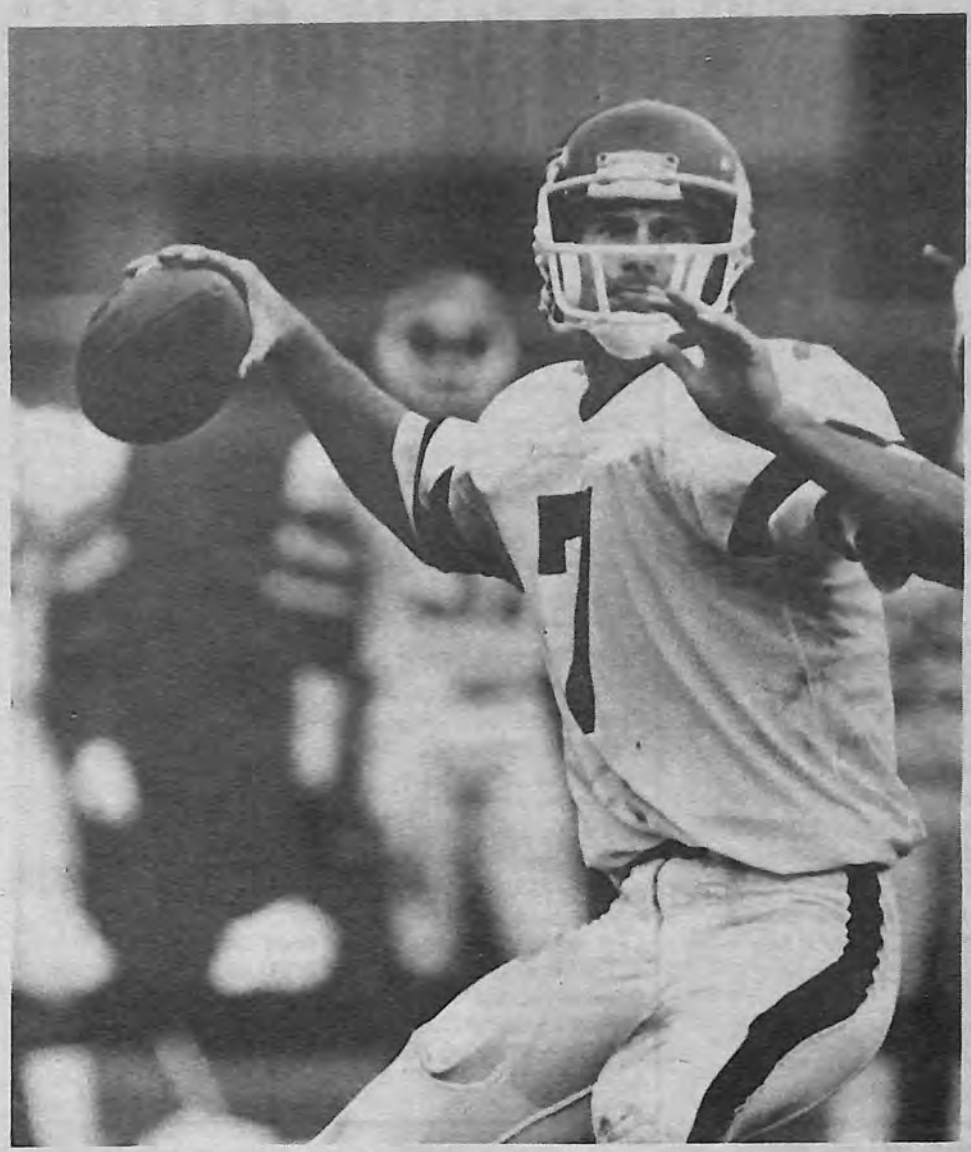
CB Bobby Jackson

NT Joe Klecko

PK Pat Leahy

T Marvin Powell

S Kirk Springs



NEW YORK QUARTERBACK Ken O'Brien leads the National Football League in passing. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

RUNNING BACK FREEMAN McNeil (24) has missed some recent games due to a leg injury. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Chicago vs. New York Lineups

Bears' Offense

WR	83 Willie Gault, 82 Ken Margerum
LT	74 Jim Covert, 71 Andy Frederick
LG	62 Mark Bortz, 57 Tom Thayer
C	63 Jay Hilgenberg, 60 Tom Andrews
RG	57 Tom Thayer, 75 Stefan Humphries
RT	78 Keith Van Horne, 71 Andy Frederick
TE	87 Emery Moorehead, 80 Tim Wrightman
RB	34 Walter Payton, 29 Dennis Gentry
FB	26 Matt Suhey, 33 Calvin Thomas
QB	9 Jim McMahon, 4 Steve Fuller
WR	85 Dennis McKinnon, 86 Brad Anderson

Jets' Defense

LE	99 Mark Gastineau, 93 Marty Lyons
NT	73 Joe Klecko, 95 Tom Baldwin
RE	78 Barry Bennett, 99 Mark Gastineau
LOLB	55 Charles Jackson, 50 Bob Crable
LILB	59 Kyle Clifton, 58 Matt Monger
RILB	56 Lance Mehl, 58 Matt Monger
ROLB	94 Rusty Guilbeau, 50 Bob Crable
LCB	40 Bobby Jackson, 20 Davlin Mullen
RCB	29 Johnny Lynn, 35 Kerry Glenn
SS	21 Kirk Springs, 26 Lester Lyles
FS	39 Harry Hamilton, 29 Johnny Lynn

Bears' Defense

LE	99 Dan Hampton, 73 Mike Hartenstine
LT	76 Steve McMichael, 72 William Perry
RT	72 William Perry, 99 Dan Hampton
RE	95 Richard Dent, 98 Tyrone Keys
LLB	55 Otis Wilson, 51 Jim Morrissey
MLB	50 Mike Singletary, 59 Ron Rivera
RLB	58 Wilber Marshall, 59 Ron Rivera
SS	22 Dave Duerson, 23 Shaun Gayle
FS	45 Gary Fencik, 23 Shaun Gayle
LC	27 Mike Richardson, 48 Reggie Phillips
RC	21 Leslie Frazier, 31 Ken Taylor

Jets' Offense

WR	88 Al Toon, 85 Wesley Walker
LT	68 Reggie McElroy, 66 Billy Shields
LG	53 Jim Sweeney, 63 Ted Banker
C	65 Joe Fields, 64 Guy Bingham
RG	60 Dan Alexander, 63 Ted Banker
RT	79 Marvin Powell, 63 Ted Banker
TE	82 Mickey Shuler, 89 Rocky Klever
WR	85 Wesley Walker, 87 Kurt Sohn
QB	7 Ken O'Brien, 10 Pat Ryan
RB	24 Freeman McNeil, 34 Johnny Hector
FB	49 Tony Paige, 23 Dennis Bligen

Bears' Specialists

PK	6 Kevin Butler
P	8 Maury Buford
PC	63 Jay Hilgenberg, 57 Tom Thayer
KC	63 Jay Hilgenberg, 57 Tom Thayer
H	4 Steve Fuller, 18 Mike Tomczak
PR	31 Ken Taylor, 85 Dennis McKinnon
KR	83 Willie Gault, 29 Dennis Gentry

Jets' Specialists

P	13 Dave Jennings, 89 Rocky Klever
K	5 Pat Leahy, 89 Rocky Klever
KO	5 Pat Leahy, 89 Rocky Lever
H	10 Pat Ryan, 7 Ken O'Brien
PR	87 Kurt Sohn, 21 Kirk Springs
KR	84 Bobby Humphery, 34 Johnny Hector
PC	64 Guy Bingham, 65 Joe Fields
KC	64 Guy Bingham, 65 Joe Fields

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Jets

Continued From Page 8

passer in the NFL, continued to increase his rating as he threw three touchdown passes. McNeil, who had missed the past two games with an ankle injury, rushed for 92 yards. And the defense, despite allowing 436 yards, held the Bills to just one touchdown while recording two interceptions and three sacks.

"We needed to get a win. I'm damned happy we got it," said Jets' head coach Joe Walton.

THE BIGGEST PLAY of the game was a 96-yard touchdown pass from O'Brien to WR Wesley Walker in the second quarter. It was the longest TD pass in Jets' history and made the score 14-0. The Bills never recovered.

"That took the wind out of our sails," said Bills' head coach Hank Bullough.

O'Brien is having a phenomenal year, to say the least. He has thrown 24 touchdown passes and has been intercepted only seven times, the league low. The only area he lacks in is avoiding sacks. He has been dumped 55 times.

BESIDES WALKER, O'Brien has a variety of other great targets to throw to. Among them are TE Mickey Shuler (67 for 767), WR Al Toon (39 for 612) and WR Kurt Sohn (37 for 483). Toon, the club's first-round draft choice out of Wisconsin, has been improving every week.

"He's a tough guy and he catches the ball over the middle with people around him," says Walton. "I think Al Toon has a chance to be a great star in this league. He's got a lot of talent. That's why we drafted him No. 1."

McNeil has been hit with a variety of injuries this year, but he is still having a Pro Bowl season. He has racked 1,194 rushing yards and is averaging five yards per carry. His value is further emphasized by the fact that two of the Jets' four losses came when McNeil was on the bench nursing injuries.

"THE INJURIES HAVEN'T been as bad as in the past because I feel stronger," says McNeil. "It had just gotten to a point where you can't rely on the young boy to bounce up and be ready to go again. I saw how Walter Payton still worked so hard in the off-season, and look at the results he gets."

One of his blockers, tackle Marvin Powell, says McNeil is one of the best in the business when healthy.

"He has an ability to set things, to set up a transition of events, one or two seconds before it takes place. I can't explain it," said Powell.

WHILE THE JETS' offense ranks third in the NFL in total offense, the Jets' defense ranks sixth. The unit is solid against the run and the pass.

The defense is allowing just 90 yards per game to opponents on the ground. And the pass defense is led by a powerful by pass-rush attack which has resulted in 42 sacks. As usual, DE Mark Gastineau is the club's sack leader with 11½. And he looks forward to showing the Bears how he does it.

"We know the Bears are a tough team, but hopefully, playing on our home field, and with the crowd behind us, we might be able to raid a refrigerator or two on them."

Besides Gastineau, the other defensive standouts include NT Joe Klecko (7½ sacks), LB Lance Mehl (143 tackles), LB Kyle Clifton (127 tackles) and CB Bobby Jackson (four interceptions).

Placekicker Pat Leahy has connected on 21 of 29 field goal attempts and punter Dave Jennings is averaging 40.6 per attempt. Kick returner Bobby Humphrey is averaging 21.0 per attempt while Kirk Springs is averaging 10.5 on punt returns.

NEW YORK DEFENSIVE end Mark Gastineau (left) loves to sack opposing quarterbacks such as Green Bay's Lynn Dickey. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Doug's Picks

BEARS by THREE over JETS
This will be a tough battle.

BRONCOS by TEN over CHIEFS
No contest.

STEELERS by SIX over BILLS
Too late for Pittsburgh.

BENGALS by FIVE over REDSKINS
Crucial game for both clubs.

LIONS by SEVEN over PACKERS
Detroit is deadly at home.

BROWNS by SIX over OILERS
Cleveland stays alive.

BUCCANEERS by FIVE over COLTS
A real thriller.

FALCONS by THREE over VIKINGS
Another crucial game.

COWBOYS by THREE over GIANTS
Dallas will wake up.

CHARGERS by FOUR over EAGLES
San Diego will score a ton.

CARDINALS by THREE over RAMS
St. Louis is a spoiler.

49ERS by SEVEN over SAINTS
San Francisco is on a roll.

RAIDERS by SIX over SEAHAWKS
L.A. looks tough.

PATRIOTS by THREE over DOLPHINS
My upset special.

Last week's record: 5-8 vs. final line (38.5%)
Actual winners: 9 of 13 (69.2%)
Season record: 91-103 vs. final line (46.9%)
Actual winners: 128 out of 195 (65.6%)
NOTE: Doug makes his picks before the opening lines are announced.

Still Tops In Poll

The Bears continue to be ranked first in a poll of the board of directors of the Professional Football Writers Association. The Bears received six out of seven first-place votes in the latest poll. The Miami Dolphins received the other first place vote.

Team Photo Update

All **BEAR REPORT** subscribers who ordered under the terms of the FREE PHOTO OFFER will receive their Bears' four-color team photos in a few weeks. There has been a slight delay in the processing of the team photos due to the mass amount of subscription orders the **BEAR REPORT** has received in recent weeks.

Wanted: Indoor Facility

After having to practice twice at Morton East High School in Cicero last week, which is an hour's drive from Lake Forest, head coach Mike Ditka stressed the need for an indoor practice facility near the Bears' headquarters.

"I think there's nothing else more important," Ditka said. "Because when you need it is the time when you're making the run to get in the playoffs, and it becomes vital.

"When you compete against the best in the National Football League, then you must be on equal ground. If you're at a disadvantage in any way, you've got to rectify it."

League Rankings

After thirteen weeks of regular season play, the Bears' defense ranked first in the NFL. It led the league in defense vs. the rush and ranked eighth vs. the pass. The unit also led the league in least points allowed (165).

On offense, the Bears ranked first in the NFC and fourth in the NFL. They led the league in rushing and ranked 18th passing. The Bears led the NFL in scoring (383) and average possession time (33:57). The Bears also led the league in turnover ratio with a net differential of plus-18.

In individual categories, QB Jim McMahon led the NFC in passing with a 87.5 rating. Kevin Butler led the NFL in scoring with 113 points. RB Walter Payton ranked second in rushing with 1306 yards and he ranked second in total yards from scrimmage with 1646.

CB Leslie Frazier was tied for second in interceptions with six. DE Richard Dent was tied for fourth in sacks with 12. Willie Gault ranked third in kickoff returns with a 27.6 average. Punter Maury Buford ranked fifth in punting with a 42.9 average.

Debate Endless Over 'Greatest Of All Time'

By Don Pierson

Jim Brown was complaining to Brent Musburger on The **NFL Today:** "Why does anyone have to be the all-time great?"

As usual, Brown was being reluctant about assessing Walter Payton's place in history. Brown acknowledged there is no question about Payton's greatness at this time, but Brown pointed out that Brown has not played for 20 years, yet CBS still had him on TV.

GALE SAYERS ASSUMES a similar stance. He takes the curious position that artificial turf enhances the performances of today's backs. Today's backs swear it endangers their careers.

O.J. Simpson measures Payton's greatness "depending on what you're looking for." If it's statistics, Payton is in a class by himself. If it's "aesthetics," says Simpson, he prefers to look at Sayers or Eric Dickerson or Marcus Allen.

"Gale Sayers was the greatest runner I've ever seen," said Simpson. "I look at a guy artistically and say, 'Boy, he did something and given the same situation, could I have done it? Only Gale Sayers would I question. But how long did Gale play?"

A CHICAGO COLUMNIST wrote Payton would be second-string if Brown and Sayers were on the same team. If the coach of the team were an idiot, that would be true. Brown and Sayers in the same backfield would be interesting only to see which one would get hurt first. Neither would block for the other.

Part of the fun of a successful football season is the arguing. Chicago has provided some all-time arguments this year, although the Bears eliminated themselves from consideration as the all-time great team by losing to the Miami Dolphins. Or did they?

If the Bears win all the rest including the Super Bowl, they will be 18-1, one more victory than the 17-0 Dolphins of 1972. And if the Bears beat the 49ers on the way and win the playoff games by more convincing scores than the 1984 49ers, won't they be better than last year's 18-1 49ers?

AFTER ALL, AREN'T today's athletes bigger, stronger, faster, smarter than last year's athletes?

Surely, the Bears have a chance to surpass the 49ers on the all-time commercial team. Did the 49ers produce a "Super Bowl" song nearly two months before the Super Bowl? That has to be an all-time record for a record, unless the 1984 or 1969 Cubs can match it.

The Bears also boast the all-time great phenomenon in William "The Refrigerator" Perry. At least he is the all-time big phenomenon. Perry is so big he was the subject of a New Yorker cartoon, putting him in a class Payton may never reach. Payton made the Bill Cosby Show, but not *The New Yorker.* In the cartoon, a frowning kid wearing No. 72 is sitting at the dinner table. His mother is admonishing him: "I read that the Refrigerator eats tons of ratatouille."

Television took the Perry thing to new heights of hyperbole when it advertised the Monday night Dolphin game as "The Refrigerator leads the Bears against Don Shula's Dolphins." Spare us. If beating William Perry were the key to beating the Bears, the Bears would have lost earlier than Dec. 2.

THE *TRIBUNE* SELECTED the all-time Bears' team. It was done by the most scientific of means: arguing among sportswriters, just like the radio show.

Should Johnny Morris be the flanker? It's got to be Harlon Hill. But Ken Kavanaugh caught 50 touchdown passes and Hill caught only 40. Morris caught 31. You can't have two wide receivers because you have to have three running backs — Payton, Sayers and Bronko Nagurski. You can flank Sayers out if you ever have a passing situation.

Why not put Nagurski at his other position of tackle? He was the original Refrigerator minus the publicity.

AND WHY IS RED Grange only returning kicks? Because he was a better college player than he was a pro. After two years with George Halas, Grange got hurt and admitted he was "just another halfback after that."

Abe Gibron said it was stupid to leave Ray Bray out. An all-pro guard in 1946-48-49 and voted to the Pro Bowl in 1951 and 1952, Bray finished behind Danny Fortmann and Stan Jones. Hall of Famer George Musso didn't make it either. Maybe Noah Jackson was better than any of them.

On defense, could you really line up with three safeties — Rosey Taylor, Richie Petitbon and Gary Fencik — and a reformed running back, J.C. Caroline, in the backfield? With three middle linebackers trying to cover outside — Dick Butkus, Bill George and Mike Singletary — wouldn't teams have success going wide?

NOT WITH DOUG Atkins and Dan Hampton playing the ends, they wouldn't.

And so the arguments go on. Coach Mike Ditka has tried to end the arguing over Payton by saying: "He is the greatest footbal player of all time." It is interesting to notice Ditka didn't arrive in Chicago thinking that. The notion has grown on him over the last four years.

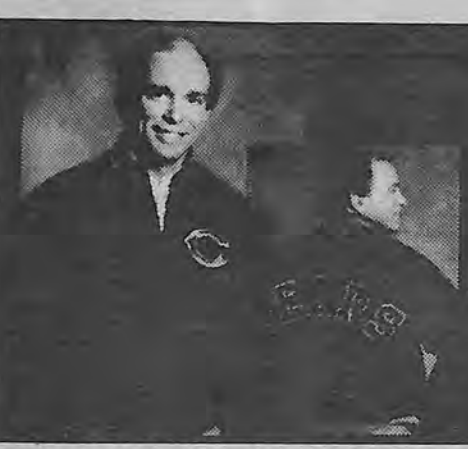
The longer Payton plays, the more widespread that notion will become. Television, for instance, might finally string together a half-hour show featuring nothing but Payton's blocks. They could run a series: "Next week, tune in while we focus on Payton's blitz pickup."

Payton broke Brown's all-time rushing record last year, provoking arguments that probably will rage forever. The biggest difference between Brown and Payton is Payton would be remembered as a great football player if he had never carried for a single yard.

"On interceptions, he makes the tackle," said Gibron. "He's a joy for a football man to watch."

Why does anyone have to be the all-time great? Because that's what makes sports more interesting than scores.

RUNNING BACK WALTER Payton looks for a hole. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



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Playoff Ticket Policy

The Bears have been authorized to prepare and distribute tickets for post-season games which will be played at Soldier Field.

Ticket prices, set by the National Football League, have a $5 per seat increase for the Divisional Playoff Game (Jan. 4 or Jan. 5) and a $10 per seat increase for the Conference Championship game (Jan. 12).

POST-SEASON TICKETS will be mailed on Dec. 19 to those season ticket holders who have exercised their purchase option.

Remaining tickets for a Jan. 4 or Jan. 5 Divisional Playoff Game will go on sale Monday, Dec. 23, beginning at 10 a.m., at the Soldier Field box office, as well at Ticketron outlets in Chicagoland, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. They will also be available via the Teletron phone service.

The Dec. 23 sale will cover only Divisional Playoff Game tickets. In the event the Bears host the NFC Championship game on Jan. 12, details for that ticket sale will be announced at the appropriate time.

FANS PURCHASING Divisional Playoff Game tickets on Dec. 23 must make payment in cash or by certified check, or by approved charge procedures for purchases made at Ticketron outlets. A four ticket per-purchase limit will be followed for the Dec. 23 sale of Divisional Playoff Game tickets.

Divisional Playoff tickets will be available through Ticketron outlets in the following areas:

INDIANA — Merrillville and Michigan City.

ILLINOIS — Greater Chicago, Aurora, Joliet, West Dundee, Kankakee, Rockford.

WISCONSIN — Greater Milwaukee, Janesville, Kenosha, Madison, Racine.

Fourteen-Game Totals

Bears' Defensive Stats

Player	Total	Solo	Assists	Passes Defended	Fumbles Recovered	Forced Fumbles	Blocks	Sacks/Yards
G Fencik	105	87	18	11	1	0	0	.0/ .0
M Singletary	101	79	22	5	2	0	0	3.0/ 24.0
W Marshall	71	54	17	4	1	2	0	5.0/ 36.0
O Wilson	59	46	13	4	1	0	0	9.5/ 65.5
D Duerson	56	49	7	8	0	1	0	2.0/ 24.0
L Frazier	47	41	6	19	0	0	0	.0/ .0
S McMichael	42	37	5	2	1	0	0	8.0/ 55.5
M Richardson	31	28	3	23	1	2	0	.0/ .0
R Dent	31	27	4	7	1	3	0	13.0/ 96.5
D Hampton	29	23	6	3	3	2	0	4.5/ 33.0
W Perry	26	23	3	0	0	0	0	4.0/ 35.0
M Hartenstine	19	15	4	1	1	0	0	1.0/ 9.0
S Gayle	17	15	2	0	1	0	1	.0/ .0
R Rivera	9	8	1	1	0	1	0	.5/ 4.0
R Phillips	8	7	1	1	1	0	0	.0/ .0
C Thrift	8	7	1	0	0	0	0	.0/ .0
T Keys	7	7	0	1	0	0	1	1.0/ 6.0
K Taylor	6	6	0	3	0	0	0	.0/ .0
J Morrissey	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	.0/ .0
H Waechter	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	2.5/ 17.5
J Maness	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	.0/ .0
M Suhey	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	.0/ .0
D Gentry	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	.0/ .0
T Thayer	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	.0/ .0
K Margerum	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	.0/ .0
J McMahon	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	.0/ .0

SPECIAL TEAMS TACKLES

Player	Total	Solo	Assists	Player	Total	Solo	Assists
D Gentry	12	11	1	J Morrissey	5	4	1
T Sanders	8	6	2	W Perry	4	2	2
T Wrightman	7	5	2	C Thrift	3	3	0
K Taylor	5	5	0	R Rivera	3	2	1

WALTER PAYTON LETS the ball go after scoring a touchdown in the third quarter vs. the Colts. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Covert's a Player In the Ditka Mold

"I don't think there's any better tackle in the league, and I exclude nobody. Right now Jim Covert is probably our best lineman. He's an All-Pro. He has worked for that and I think he deserves the recognition. This is his third year now, and I think he deserves every bit of it. He's really a tough football player."

— Mike Ditka

Toughness. They say that it takes one to know one and Ditka and Covert are two peas from literally the same pod. These are two tough people who came out of the hard-working, give-your-job-everything-you-have ethnic of Western Pennsylvania.

They both were All-Americans at the University of Pittsburgh, they both were number-one draft choices of the Bears and they both have made their mark in professional football. As a player Ditka was in five Pro Bowls. It appears that Covert might be Pro Bowl-bound as well.

By Michael Haggerty

FORMER COLLEGE ROOMMATES Dan Marino (left) and Jim Covert chat after the Bears-Dolphins game. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

THEIR SHARED "NO pain, no gain" philosophy was forged in Western Pennsylvania's Beaver Valley.

"I come from Conway, which is about 20 miles from Pittsburgh. It's right on the Ohio River. Mike is from Aliquippa, which is directly across the river from my home town," Covert points out.

"Mike is still a big hero in that area. A lot of great football players — like Mike, Tony Dorsett and Joe Namath — have come out of the Beaver Valley. Back there they're still telling stories about Mike, about how tough he was and what a competitor he was and how he hated to lose and stuff like that. He's kind of a legend."

WHEN COVERT WENT from Conway to Pitt he discovered Ditka's folk-hero status intact. Ditka is among the stars pictured in displays in athletic department offices and in the Pitt fieldhouse. Boo Conners, then as now equipment manager for the Panthers, told Covert and his Pitt teammates about Ditka's complete dedication to winning.

Among Conners' stories is the time Ditka got confrontational with a teammate Ditka thought was not giving a total effort, and this was in a huddle during a game. At Pitt, Ditka is still held up to players as a role model, as somebody worthy of patterning yourself after.

"CONWAY IS BASICALLY a steel mill town," says Covert. My father worked in the mill. My brothers worked in the mill. My uncle worked in the mill. My two brothers-in-law worked in the mill. My grandfather worked there for 43 years. It seems that my whole family, except me, worked in that mill.

"Working in the mill is a tough thing, but the money raised our family right. I think that some people have misconceptions about that area, that you grow up with coal dust on your face. It's not like that.

"But you do know that your parents work hard for their money," Covert continues. "Your parents give that work ethic to you. That's the way you're raised. Your parents want you to work hard. They want you to work hard in school. They want you to work hard in sports.

"THEY WANT YOU to do everything with your heart in it because the only way you'll get results, the only way you'll get the good things in life, is by working hard. There's no easy way out, ever. That's the way my parents gave it to me. That's the way everybody in the valley is."

Covert makes sure he gets back to Western Pennsylvania from time to time and, once there, he's constantly asked about Ditka, the only coach he's had in the pros. "They say, 'How's Mike doing? What's he like during the games? What's he like during practices? Is he tough to play for?' When they ask me that last question I tell them, 'No. Not if you want to win.' If you don't want to win, then maybe he's tough to play for. He just wants to win and he's a tough competitor."

Covert admires Ditka's fairness as much as he does his toughness. Ditka does not hesitate to intensely voice his displeasure with his players when they make mistakes and it can truly be said that he has no favorites.

BUT AT THE same time "when you do something right, Mike is the first to pat you on the back and tell you, 'Great job.' He gives you the praise too, and not every coach is like that," Covert testifies.

After Covert was drafted, Ditka telephoned him at the Covert family home, where family and friends had assembled for a draft day party. "I heard, 'This is Mike Ditka calling,' and it was a thrill," Covert remembers.

"Afterward, I told all the people in the room that Mike Ditka had just called me and everybody was real impressed and happy that I was drafted by the Bears, because I'd be playing for a guy everybody could relate to.

"He told me that he had a position, left tackle, for me, that he was expecting me to play it. 'Just do your best and it'll be your job' he told me."

Covert, of course, did just that and he's been a starter ever since. Ditka knew what he was getting when the Bears made Covert their number-one pick — somebody like himself who believed that working hard is the only way to earn success. Covert was pretty sure about what he was getting as a head coach. And they were both right.

Next Week's Issue

Next week's issue of the **BEAR REPORT** will include extensive coverage of next Saturday's nationally-televised Bears-Jets game. It will also include a detailed preview of the regular season finale which will be played at Detroit on Sunday, December 22.

Sub. Phone Service

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TV, Radio Coverage

Next Saturday's Bears-Jets game will be televised live nationally via CBS (Channel 2). The broadcast will begin with *The NFL Today* at 11 a.m. CST. The game will also be broadcast via the Bears' WGN (720 AM) Radio Network. Kickoff is 11:30 a.m. CST.

Post-Season Dates

Sunday, Dec. 29 ..... AFC & NFC Wild Card Games
Sat., Jan. 4 ..... AFC & NFC Divisional Playoffs
Sun., Jan. 5 ..... AFC & NFC Divisional Playoffs
Sun., Jan. 12 ..... AFC & NFC Championship Games
Sun., Jan. 26 ..... SB XX at Louisiana Superdome
Sun., Feb. 2 ..... AFC-NFC Pro Bowl, Honolulu, HI

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Bears Win

Continued From Page 3

happened."

IT MAY HAVE happened if it hadn't been for another spectacular performance by RB Walter Payton. After getting just 15 yards on six carries in the first half, he finished the contest with 111 yards on 26 carries. It is his ninth consecutive 100-yard rushing effort.

"Walter has always taken the team on his shoulders," said Ditka. "Now he's got a team that rises up to him and plays with him. We could have thrown the ball all day but who am I trying to impress? Our offense is to control the ball."

"I would hate to be on the other side of the ball trying to stop Walter," said DE Richard Dent.

ONE THING THE Bears realized after this contest is they can not take any opponent lightly and can still find plenty of room for improvement.

"We haven't put a whole game together yet," said SS Dave Duerson. "If we ever put it together all at one time, it could be great."

The first drive of this contest indicated the defense still hadn't recovered from the bombs Dan Marino threw at it a week ago on *Monday Night Football.* The Colts ran the ball at will and Pagel rolled out of the pocket to hit some key passes.

"AFTER WHAT HAPPENED in Miami, I think everybody is gonna try that roll out stuff against us," said McMichael.

The Colts moved the ball down to the Bear three where they had it first-and-goal. Pagel completed a two-yard pass to TE Mark Boyer and on the next play RB Otis Wonsley was stopped for no gain. On third down, FS Gary Fencik tackled FB Randy McMillan for a six-yard loss. Then Raul Allegre hit the upright on a 25-yard field goal attempt. The long drive resulted in no points.

"I felt McMillan would go wide," said Fencik." My job is to contain him. I just got a quick read. I'm not gonna allow us to be beaten outside."

AFTER AN EXCHANGE of punts, the Bears began their first scoring drive with 2:30 left in the first quarter. McMahon quickly got the ball downfield with a 24-yard pass to Moorehead and a 15-yard toss to Payton. He moved it deeper into Indy territory with a 14-yard scramble on a third down. But the drive eventually stalled at the Colt three and that's when Kevin Butler connected on a 20-yard field goal to make it 3-0.

On the ensuing drive, the Colts tied the game at three when Allegre hit on a 30-yard field goal. The key play of that series was a 25-yard run by McMillan.

Before the first half ended, the Colts tried a 55-yard field goal which was short and wide to the left.

THE BEARS CAME OUT firing in the third quarter. McMahon opened the half with a 21-yard pass to WR Willie Gault and a 15-yard scramble. But that drive eventually fizzled and the Bears were forced to punt. Maury Buford hit the ball out of bounds at the Indy four.

"All year long, Maury has hit it good for us. He has been real solid," said Ditka.

The Colts were quickly forced to punt and the Bears began their first touchdown drive of the afternoon at their own 37. Payton was the workhorse of this series as he carried the ball five times and caught a pass. He capped the 11-play drive with a 16-yard touchdown run on third-and-six.

It was a trap play and Walter was wide open," said McMahon. "(Keith) Van Horne threw a great block on that one."

"OUR TECHNIQUE STUNK in the first half. We finally did things right in the second half," said Van Horne.

Early in the fourth quarter, Buford came through again. This time he hit a 64-yard punt which was downed at the Indy four. The Colts went one-two-three-punt. That helped the Bears begin their next scoring drive at the Colt 45.

The Bears kept the ball on the ground exclusively on this drive except for one incomplete pass. FB Calvin Thomas capped the 10-play drive with a three-yard TD run to make it 17-3.

THE COLTS, HOWEVER, didn't quit. On the third play of the ensuing drive, Pagel connected with WR Wayne Capers on a 61-yard touchdown pass which made it 17-10. Capers was wide open when he caught the ball at the Bear 25 and raced untouched into the end zone.

"I just lost him really," said CB Mike Richardson who was supposed to be covering Capers. "I was just hoping it was underthrown. I thought Pagel's momentum wouldn't let him throw so deep."

"It was not a designed play, but it worked," said Ditka. "We should have been playing looser."

THE BEARS GOT THE ball back with 5:49 left and ate up the clock with 10 running plays and one pass. The Colts never got a chance to send the contest into overtime. The Bears had rushed for only 43 yards in the first half but finished the game with 191 rushing yards.

"At the half, I got this piece of paper with a lot of dirty words that came down from the media. It said, 'Run Payton.' That's why I did it," said Ditka. "Not many teams can run like we did in the second half. We'll put our running game up against anybody."

Ditka knows his team will be in for a big test next Saturday afternoon vs. the Jets at the Meadowlands. He wants a solid performance to get his team in gear for the playoffs.

"We'd like to win the next two games. Teams that play well going into the playoffs end up playing pretty darn good in the playoffs. The team that seems to limp into the playoffs usually limps out of there in a hurry," Ditka said.

"We'll find out next week who we really are," added Fencik. "The Jets need the victory because of their division race. We need it for different reasons."

GAME NOTES: Placekicker Kevin Butler has connected on eight consecutive field goals and 17 of his last 18 attempts. He is just one short (24) of tying Mac Percival's team record of 25 in one season which was set in 1968. "Kevin Butler is Mr. Reliable. We can always count on him," says SS Dave Duerson. . . . DT William Perry continues to be the darling of the fans. Everytime he steps on the field, the fans let out a roar. Against the Colts, he had one of his better games of the season recording four solo tackles and putting pressure on QB Mike Pagel several times. "I feel like I improved from last week. I'm gonna get better," he said. Perry also got into a scuffle with Colt OT Chris Hinton. "The play was over with but he kept pushing and shoving me. That's how the game goes," Perry said. . . .The Bears have won 17 of their last 19 games at Soldier Field and eight straight against AFC Central teams. They have won all eight of their regular season contests at home this year. That is the first time the team has recorded a clean sweep in Chicago since 1956 when the Bears went 6-0 at Wrigley Field. . . The Colts had the ball for 10 more seconds than the Bears in the first quarter but the Bears won the possession battle by nearly 18 minutes (38:55 to 21:05). The Bears outgained the Colts 328 to 232 yards. . . The Bears have outrushed 33 of their last 36 opponents and have held a time of possession lead in 37 of their last 38 games. . . QB Jim McMahon played the entire contest. It was his first start in four weeks and he completed 11 of 23 passes for 145 yards. "He threw the ball fine," said Ditka. "If we wanted to line up and throw the ball on every down, we could have." McMahon said: "I threw some bad balls and had a couple of balls dropped. Other than that, things went well." Ditka added: "He can't throw the ball and catch it to. A couple of his throws should have been caught easily. They've got to catch those." . . . WR Willie Gault led the Bears in receiving with 3 catches for 36 yards while RB Dennis Gentry had 2 for 38. . . WR Dennis McKinnon did not play due to a pulled hamstring sustained at Miami but Ditka expects him to be ready for the Jets. Kenny Margerum started in place of McKinnon vs. the Colts. . . Nearly 60,000 fans attended the game, and at one point, play had to be stopped because Pagel couldn't hear well enough to call the signals. . . . Game balls were awarded to Payton and Buford.

JIM COVERT (74) congratulates Walter Payton after Sweetness crossed the 100-yard rushing barrier for the ninth consecutive game. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Back Issues Available

Back issues of all 1985 editions of the ***BEAR REPORT*** are still available. Each individual copy is $2.00. To order a particular issue (or issues), please send a check or money order in the proper amount to: BEAR REPORT BACK ISSUES, 1271 W. Dundee Rd., 89E, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089.

DEFENSIVE TACKLE DAN HAMPTON (far right) has words with Indianapolis tight end Pat Beach. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Latest Game Proves Value Of Intensity

By Wally Gullick
BEAR REPORT Staff

Doing their best to find a solution for the growing concern over what to do about excessive crowd noise, the Bears and Indianapolis Colts gave fans reason to contain their emotions in last Sunday's game at Soldier Field.

Both clubs would be hard-pressed to encore the 3-3 thrilling output they unveiled in the first half. Things did eventually get better, but just barely. It was the first yawn-fest outing for a team that has spent the past 13 weeks triggering Bear hysteria.

AT NO TIME WAS the prophecy that claims you're only as good as your competition more evident than it was in this Bears' 17-10 victory. It was a win that didn't produce the usual post-game smiles, but more of a sorrowful sigh of acceptance.

While the stage was set for the Bears to maul the Colts after their undefeated dream was sunk by the Dolphins in the Orange Bowl, the Bears failed an intensity test and created a new enemy: themselves.

"It was a case of poor execution. We knew it and so did the coaches. Mike (Ditka) told us at halftime we were beating ourselves," said OT Jim Covert, who anchors a line that has been responsible for a well-balanced offensive attack, but not last Sunday.

VETERAN FREE SAFETY Gary Fencik, concerned over the ability of recent opponents to beat the Bears via the roll out pass, couldn't find a reason to account for the Bears' sluggish effort.

"That first half found us to be as flat as I've seen us in several years, and there's no telling why you come out for a game like that," said Fencik who sensed both the players and the crowd were very quiet at the outset.

"I didn't see that as a negative feeling really. I just thought everyone was saving it up for the game. But right off the bat the defense let down and we were flat for an entire first half," added Fencik.

THAT'S WHERE THE competition factor plays into view. Instead of taking advantage of the hibernating Bears, Indianapolis drove 78 yards to the Bear one on the opening drive, only to wind up having Raul Allegre hit the left upright from 25 yards out. Allegre later matched Kevin Butler's 20-yard field goal, but questionable play-calling in the final two minutes took the Colts out of field goal range and a potential 6-3 lead at the intermission.

"Maybe we were trying too hard," said LB Otis Wilson, shrugging off the affects of a mediocre win. "The guys were out there working and were fired up in the huddle, but all I know is that we're 13-1 and five wins away from a Super Bowl championship."

Almost lost in the dismal first half performance was the opportunity for the NFL's greatest running back to extend his 100-yard rushing streak, but 96 yards in 20 second-half carries allowed "Sweetness" to total 111 yards.

"WE JUST WEREN'T blocking people in the first half," noted Covert, who wasn't aware of how close Payton was getting to his 100-yard game until the team's final possession.

Payton's longest run came via a 16-yard third-quarter dash through the heart of the Colts' line on a play where the Bears' offensive line got its blocking act together to allow Payton to coast into the end zone untouched.

Just as he highlighted the first touchdown drive, Payton carried for 23 yards in a 45-yard scoring march that featured a Calvin Thomas touchdown that would prove vital in the final outcome.

"The difference in that second half was that we started going straight at them. They've got some tough kids and we don't run into people like that very often. This is by far one of the best front seven alignments we've run into this year," said Ditka, who saluted the Colts for challenging his 13-1 Bears.

WITH THE PERFECT 8-0 season at home now tucked away, the Bears will be out to fine tune the machine which hopefully did not reach its peak when it demolished Dallas and Atlanta a few weeks back.

"We better come out and play from the start this Saturday or the Jets will kick our butts all over the Meadowlands," noted Fencik. "Maybe we need a team like the Jets to energize us a little bit so we can get that momentum back."

While the Colts apparently didn't read the press clippings that pointed out how bad they were and how awesome the Bears were, they were still in the contest when they stung the Bear defense with a 61-yard scoring pass to Wayne Capers wth six minutes left.

"People that predict and talk about us winning in a rout don't know what's going on. There are 28 teams in the NFL. The Colts don't belong to any other league but the NFL, and on any given Sunday if you don't execute they're going to beat your butt and that's what happened," explained Covert.

It's not going to get easier from here on out and the Bears know it. But if they have at least learned a lesson about mental toughness, then maybe there can be gratification found in this win after all.

Highest Rating Ever

The Bears-Dolphins *Monday Night Football* contest was the highest-rated regular season game in NFL history. It received a 29.6 rating and a 46 share.

"We are extremely pleased with the 29.6 rating for the Chicago-Miami game," said commissioner Pete Rozelle. "It underlines, once again, that quality NFL football provides the best in television entertainment. It also shows that the polls and surveys that anticipated an upswing in our rating levels were correct."

INDIANAPOLIS QUARTERBACK MIKE Pagel gets rid of the ball before getting hit by Otis Wilson. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Statistics

Continued From Page 4

Bears

	T	A	SK	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Frazier	1	0	0	0	0	3	0
Duerson	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
Richardson	2	0	0	0	0	3	0
Fencik	5	0	0	0	0	1	0
Singletary	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
Thrift	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson	4	4	1	10	0	0	0
Marshall	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rivera	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waechter	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perry	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
McMichael	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dent	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampton	0	1	0	0	0	1	0

Special Team's Stats

Colts

Tackles — Davis 1, Randle 1, Coleman 1, Bickett 1, Hunley 2. Assists — Hunley 1.

Bears

Tackles — Gentry 2, Gayle 1, Phillips 2. Assists — Gentry 1.

Much To Prove

Continued From Page 7

Payton will be shooting for his 10th consecutive 100-yard rushing game. He already holds the league record in that category. Jim McMahon will be working on sharpening his timing as playoff time approaches. The defense will be striving for the collective goals it has set for itself to lead the league in a number of statistical categories.

Beyond all that, any time you see "Chicago vs. New York" in any kind of competition, it means something. Chicago has always been looked upon by the East as the home of rubes, as a bunch of losers who know how to beat themselves. Whether it's basketball, baseball, boxing or badminton, NY vs. Chi always attracts lots of attention. This game will be no exception.

It's the two largest and most loyal TV markets in the country going head to head. The Bears' recent appearance on *Monday Night Football* attracted the largest audience in MNF history. This one will do very well on CBS-TV though it is not a prime time telecast.

It's the big city game of the week, the battle of the playgrounds. Too bad it'll be played in New Jersey!

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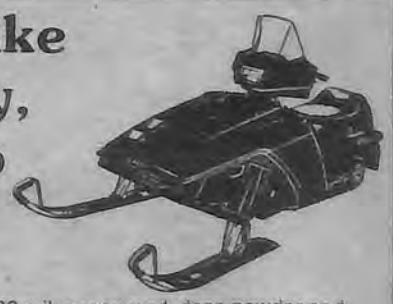

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BEAR REPORT welcomes all Letters to the Editor. Due to space limitations, it may be necessary to shorten letters to fill the space available. BEAR REPORT does not necessarily agree with the views stated in the letters we receive. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Don't Knock the Fridge

Dear Doug,

I would like to make a comment on Knight-Ridder Newspapers reporter Dick Shippy's article "Close the Fridge" in which he defames William Perry by referring to him as "Lard Can." All I have to say is what can you expect from somebody when you take the two P's out of his last name and throw in two T's. What kind of reporting could you ever get?

Thank you for letting me express my comment on this matter.

Sincerely,
Gerard Piccolo
Houston, TX

The Day vs. Dallas

Dear Doug,

It's Sunday, November 17, 10:40 a.m. My wife and daughter have already left the house, because:

A. With each victory the crowd and noise level in our basement has increased.

B. All week, the only word I've said about the "Showdown in Dallas" is S-H-U-T-O-U-T!! Even though she is a believer, she didn't want to see it, should the unthinkable (a loss) occur.

My son and I are making our picks of the week's games with the newspaper, when there is the first knock at the door. It is my friend the Packer Backer. This is the first time all season that he showed, but I'm not surprised. If Bear and Packer fans have one thing in common, it is their hatred of the "Cow Chips."

"24-23 Bears!", he says.

I nod, smile, and point him toward the basement. On the way past our icebox (before this year's draft I would have said Fridge) he spots the **BEAR REPORT**, with my letter about him circled, fastened to the side with magnets. This is my wife's little joke on me. "Don't I always hang it up when one of my kids does something nice?" was her answer to my question why it was there.

"I think he might leave before it starts, but he just grins and says, "Thanks for not putting my name on it."

From outside, the sound of car doors slamming and loud voices signaled the arrival of most of the group.

We all head downstairs, and tune in Johnny Morris and "The Mike Ditka Show." Everyone listens intently.

Next up is the "NFL Today." Now the nervous chatter begins. As I listen, I am pleased to note that while they are conservative, at least they are picking the Bears.

"21-17," I hear first.

"Not enough points, more like 38-31."

"Too many points, more like 17-13."

And so it went, with me just sitting and smiling.

Suddenly from the T.V. set I hear "Jimmy the Bleep" say Dallas 20-17."

"B-----T", I explode. "This is the same bunch of *"Cow Chips" that missed last year's playoffs!* And an ever-improving gang of Bears that came within **one** game of the *Super Bowl! And Steve* Fuller was the quarterback!

What about Chicago 20, New England 7? What about Chicago 45, Washington 10? Chicago 26, San Francisco 10?

All of these games were close to shutouts, and today we got that shutout!

As I glanced around, all I got back were disbelieving stares, and nervous laughter.

Just then, reinforcement in the form of Nick arrived. He is the only other member of the group to subscribe to the **BEAR REPORT.** The only other **true** Black and Blue believer.

"Why is it so quiet?" he asked. "Aren't you guys ready? SHUT 'EM DOWN, and BLOW 'EM AWAY!" he bellowed.

"S-H-U-T-O-U-T!" I shouted back.

"N-O-O-O Doubt!!" he agreed.

By the middle of the second quarter, with the score 17 zip, everyone joined the chants. When the "Cow Chips" had the ball, it was "stuff 'em, stomp 'em, S-H-U-T-O-U-T!!"

And when we had the ball, "Let's Go — Bears!!"

For us, the game ended too soon. All of us think that our intensity and emotion were transferred to Texas Stadium, that the coaches and players could feel our hunger, and added it to their own.

The next morning, I read in the **CHICAGO TRIBUNE** that Danimal had predicted S-H-U-T-O-U-T on Saturday night.

I should have bet my house.

Len Levy
Glenview, IL

Continued Page 19

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QUARTERBACK JIM McMAHON made his first start in four weeks. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Fourteen-Game Totals

Bears' Cumulative Stats

RESULTS AND ATTENDANCE (Actual)			
S 8 (S)	Chicago 38, Tampa Bay 28		57,828
S 15 (S)	Chicago 20, New England 7		60,533
S 19 (MN)	Chicago 33, Minnesota 24		61,242
S 29 (S)	Chicago 45, Washington 10		63,708
O 6 (TB)	Chicago 27, Tampa Bay 19		51,795
O 13 (SF)	Chicago 26, San Francisco 10		60,523
O 21 (S)	Chicago 23, Green Bay 7		65,095
O 27 (S)	Chicago 27, Minnesota 9		63,815
N 3 (GB)	Chicago 16, Green Bay 10		55,343
N 10 (S)	Chicago 24, Detroit 3		53,467
N 17 (DA)	Chicago 44, Dallas 0		63,855
N 24 (S)	Chicago 36, Atlanta 0		61,769
D 2 (MI)	Miami 38, Chicago 24		75,594
D 8 (S)	Chicago 17, Indianapolis 10		59,997
D 14 (NY)	Chicago at New York Jets		11:30
D 22 (DT)	Chicago at Detroit		12:00

TEAM STATISTICS	Bears	Opponent
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	303	203
Rushing	156	63
Passing	128	121
Penalty	19	19
3rd Down: Made/Att.	76-191	54-178
4th Down: Made/Att.	5- 12	5- 12
TOTAL NET YARDS	5136	3650
Avg. Per Game	366.9	260.7
Total Plays	946	818
Avg. Per Play	5.4	4.5
NET YARDS RUSHING	2484	1176
Avg. Per Game	177.4	84.0
Total Rushes	537	315
NET YARDS PASSING	2652	2474
Avg. Per Game	189.4	176.7
Tackled/Yards Lost	34- 192	54- 405
Gross Yards	2844	2879
Attempts/Completions	375- 208	449- 213
Pct. of Completions	55.5	47.4
Had Intercepted	12	31
PUNTS/AVERAGE	60- 43.0	81- 40.7
NET PUNTING AVG.	35.5	33.8
PENALTIES/YARDS	*91- 808*	*108- 874*
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	21- 14	23- 13
TOUCHDOWNS	46	21
Rushing	26	5
Passing	15	15
Returns	5	1

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
BEARS TOTAL	61	134	110	95	0	400
Opp. Total	44	77	24	30	0	175

SCORING	TDR	TDP	TDRt	PAT	FG	S	TP
K Butler	0	0	0	46-46	24-29	0	118
W Payton	9	2	0	0- 0	0- 0	0	66
D McKinnon	0	7	0	0- 0	0- 0	0	42
S Fuller	5	0	0	0- 0	0- 0	0	30
C Thomas	4	0	0	0- 0	0- 0	0	24
J McMahon	2	1	0	0- 0	0- 0	0	18
W Perry	2	1	0	0- 0	0- 0	0	18
M Suhey	1	1	0	0- 0	0- 0	0	12
D Gentry	2	0	0	0- 0	0- 0	0	12
W Gault	0	1	1	0- 0	0- 0	0	12
O Wilson	0	0	1	0- 0	0- 0	1	8
T Sanders	1	0	0	0- 0	0- 0	0	6
L Frazier	0	0	1	0- 0	0- 0	0	6
BEARS TOTAL	26	15	5	46-46	24-29	3	400
Opp. Total	5	15	1	20-21	9-15	1	1

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
K Butler	1- 1	9- 9	11-12	3- 6	0-1	24-29
BEARS TOTAL	1- 1	9- 9	11-12	3- 6	0-1	24-29
Opp. Total	1- 1	1- 2	5- 6	2- 4	0-2	9-15

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
W Payton	279	1417	5.1	40	9
M Suhey	100	402	4.0	17	1
J McMahon	41	219	5.3	19	2
C Thomas	30	125	4.2	17	4
D Gentry	25	123	4.9	21	2
T Sanders	25	104	4.2	28	1
S Fuller	23	73	3.2	19	5
W Gault	5	18	3.6	11	0
K Margerum	1	-7	-7.0	0	0
W Perry	5	7	1.4	2	2
M Tomczak	2	3	1.5	3	0
D McKinnon	1	0	.0	0	0
BEARS TOTAL	537	2484	4.6	40	26
Opp. Total	315	1176	3.7	37	5

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
W Payton	44	363	8.3	33	2
E Moorehead	31	431	13.9	25	1
M Suhey	29	258	8.9	35	1
W Gault	28	589	21.0	70	1
D McKinnon	27	491	18.2	48	7
T Wrightman	19	352	18.5	49	0
K Margerum	16	179	11.2	20	1
C Thomas	5	45	9.0	15	0
D Gentry	4	70	17.5	30	0
J Maness	1	34	34.0	34	0
J McMahon	1	13	13.0	13	1
T Sanders	1	9	9.0	9	0
BEARS TOTAL	208	2844	13.7	70	15
Opp. Total	213	2879	13.5	90	15

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
L Frazier	6	119	19.8	33	1
G Fencik	5	38	7.6	22	0
D Duerson	4	58	14.5	37	0
W Marshall	4	23	5.8	14	0
M Richardson	3	129	43.0	90	1
O Wilson	3	35	11.7	23	1
K Taylor	3	28	9.3	18	0
R Dent	2	10	5.0	9	1
BEARS TOTAL	31	463	14.9	90	4
Opp. Total	12	72	6.0	43	1

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG	Blk.
M Buford	60	2577	43.0	13	16	69	0
* Team	1	0	.0	0	0	0	1
BEARS TOTAL	61	2577	42.2	13	16	69	1
Opp. Total	81	3295	40.7	5	9	75	1

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
K Taylor	25	7	198	7.9	21	0
K Ortego	13	1	110	8.5	15	0
D Duerson	6	0	47	7.8	11	0
D Gentry	0	0	47	.0	47	0
J Maness	2	0	9	4.5	5	0
BEARS TOTAL	50	8	455	9.1	47	0
Opp. Total	21	8	185	8.8	29	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
W Gault	19	525	27.6	99	1
D Gentry	16	361	22.6	50	0
T Sanders	1	10	10.0	10	0
K Taylor	1	18	18.0	18	0
W Marshall	0	2	.0	2	0
D McKinnon	1	16	16.0	16	0
BEARS TOTAL	38	932	24.5	99	1
Opp. Total	*68*	*1562*	*23.0*	*58*	*0*

FIELD GOALS: Made Missed
K Butler(38,63,45)(21,28)(24,19,34,34 31,45) (28) (30,30) (34,38,27,29) () (40,29) () (43,39) (44,46,22) (35,32) (30) (20)

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct. TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	LG	Lost/Att.	Rating
J McMahon	260	150	1983	57.7	7.63	13	5.0	8	3.1	70	18- 95	85.7
S Fuller	106	53	777	50.0	7.33	1	.9	4	3.8	69	16- 97	61.5
W Payton	4	2	46	50.0	11.50	1	25.0	0	.0	33	0- 0	131.3
M Tomczak	4	2	33	50.0	8.25	0	.0	0	.0	24	0- 0	78.1
BEARS TOTAL	375	208	2844	55.5	7.58	15	4.0	12	3.2	70	34-192	79.9
Opp. Total	449	213	2879	47.4	6.41	15	3.3	31	6.9	90	54-405	50.5

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Road Headquarters

The Bears will arrive in New Jersey on Friday and will be headquartered at the Fairfield Sheraton. The team does not plan to hold a workout while in New Jersey. The team will depart for Chicago immediately after the game.

Payton Honored Again

Running back Walter Payton has been selected as the National Football League Player of the Month for November by the Pro Football Writers Association.

NFL Rulings

The National Football League has announced LB Wilber Marshall should not have been penalized for a personal foul in the third quarter of the Bears-Dolphins game. The penalty gave the Dolphins a first down after the Bears had stopped them on a third-down play . . . . The NFL has also fined Green Bay DB Ken Stills $500 for a late hit he inflicted on Bear FB Matt Suhey in the Nov. 3 game at Lambeau Field.

More Letters

Continued From Page 17

Not Enough Coverage

Dear Doug,

As a transplant from Galena, IL, I'm disappointed this area of the country doesn't get Bears' coverage on T.V. Thank goodness for the **BEAR REPORT**. My vote is for the **BEAR REPORT** for sports Mag of the Year!

I was astounded to see Larry King's name in the **BEAR REPORT**. I didn't realize folks back home would have any idea of who he would be. I figured only we who populate the great Plain state were subjected to such broadcasts.

On 20 Nov. 85, he announced that he would make his football picks the next night, so be sure to be listening. He said that his record is "14-9." What is your record on the same selected picks? He also said that you had to "assume" the Bears would get to the Super Bowl and that New England was the team to beat.

The best longshot in the country right now is William Perry and Kevin Butler as co-rookies of the year. But hey — let's face it, it's the only honorable way.

Any man who has ever played a down in his life as an offensive lineman looks at those Bears and thinks, "That's how it's done."

Sincerely,
Bob Percival
Topeka, KS

Size Up the Rings

Dear Doug,

Like the Cubs in '84, the 1985 Bears have already made a long-time fan (dating back to when Papa Bear was both owner and player) very happy. Even happier, because I feel that this team will get rings on their fingers at the Super Bowl. It really is a shame that George Halas wasn't able to stay with us long enough to enjoy this team. Maybe in the locker room just before the big game Ditka can pull a Rockne speech out of his bag of tricks and persuade the team to "win one for Papa."

A word or two for Vic Fiebig (**BEAR REPORT** Nov. 21): Mr. Fiebig, you talk as though we were 6-6 instead of 12-0. Have you never heard the old cliche which says, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Could Harris and Bell improve on 12-0? Don't blame McCaskey and Vainisi for their troubles. I'm sure they both received fair offers from management. Right now these two holdouts could help the Bears like "falsies" could help Dolly Parton. They've blown their chances for a starting spot not only this year but probably next too.

Possibly, the Hampton issue was settled so easily because he is one helluva of a football player. Slusher won't suffer. He'll find a few more suckers next year — and what do you mean he signed **all** his players? The players punish **themselves** by listening to the wrong advice. Harris and Bell should take turns kicking each other for letting themselves get talked into not reporting at summer camp. Hopefully, the rest of the players in the NFL can learn a lesson. You'd better be sure you're considered to be a Dan Hampton or Randy White — or a Walter Payton before you start dictating terms to your employer. Harris and Bell would fall in the category of "none of the above" as would 95% of the rest of the NFL. I wish them both well in the future — but I believe, with no help from anyone else, they have dimmed their chances of ever becoming the high-priced talent they seemed to think they were in their negotiations.

Needless to say, I shall await anxiously the next chapter in the saga of the Bears. Best of luck to them.

Tom Sanders
Dallas, TX

Lehrmann Is Right

Dear Editor,

NATE LEHRMANN, PLEASE COME BACK — ALL IS FORGIVEN!!

When Nate Lehrmann wrote that Buddy Ryan was the meat and potatoes of the Bear team, nobody, including me, didn't know how right he was. George Allen, on an ESPN show, said Buddy Ryan's defensive team is the best in the past 50 years — Mike Ditka has nothing to do with it. Ditka can't call a defensive play or even make a substitution. Buddy Ryan has 100 percent control. That letter some village idiot from Indiana wrote about Nate was a pure piece of graffiti. It should have been filed in the waste basket. And those other yo-yos that made nasty remarks — like Nate said about Bell and Harris, should stay home and 'sit on their brain.'

Steve Hoppe
Venice, FL

Many Jump On Bandwagon

Dear **BEAR REPORT**,

I've been a Bears' fan for 17 years and I can attest that they are few and far between in Oregon. It's fun to see the team doing so well this season. A lot of fair weather fans are starting to jump on the bandwagon who didn't think twice about the Bears before. But true believers in the Bears have been supporting the team through thick and thin, and are now getting a chance to enjoy the Monsters of the Midway as a dominant team again.

Doug Buffone's column on Walter Payton in the Nov. 14 Issue was right on target. He's been the best all-around football player in decades, but because he's a nice guy and relatively quiet, he hasn't gotten the media attention that he has earned. It would be fitting for Walter to get a Super Bowl ring (or several) to cap his superb career.

Sincerely,
David Schue
Portland, OR

THE LION IN front of Chicago's Art Institute proudly wears a Bears' helmet but the helmet was stolen last Monday morning. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

'Dedicated' Honey Bears

BEAR REPORT:

I live some 300 miles southwest of Chicago, in Indiana. I was reading in a local paper that the Bears were thinking of getting rid of the Honey Bears in January because the Bears were doing so well. Who is in charge of the cheerleaders, the team or the league as a whole? They have to be some of the most dedicated fans the Bears have: all the practice, snow, rain, all for $20.00 a game.

By the way, how do you get playoff and Super Bowl tickets?

Rick Henry
Bicknell, IN

Editor's Note: It was the Bears' management's decision to disband the Honey Bears after the 1985 season. . . Playoff tickets will go on sale at all Chicagoland Ticketron outlets and at the Soldier Field ticket windows on Monday, Dec. 23. . . Unless you are a season ticket holder, you will not be eligible for a lottery which will be held by the Bears to determine who will get the Super Bowl tickets which are allotted to the two teams who participate in the event. The public sale of Super Bowl tickets was held a year ago.

Get Rid Of McMahon

Dear Doug,

Let's get rid of McMahon!

A quarterback is no good if he can only play nine or 10 games out of 16. McMahon is talented and he has proven he is a leader, but equally so he has proven he is injury-prone!

I love the Bears, but let's face it, we have a question mark at the quarterback position because McMahon likes to get hit. McMahon says he likes pain. I question his sanity.

As far as guts go, McMahon is tops. But as far as smarts go, he is zero. McMahon cost the Bears the '84 Super Bowl. I just hope he doesn't cost us the '85 Super Bowl!

"GO BEARS GO"
"Make Tomczak the starter."

J. McDowell
Sioux Falls, SD

Costas Is Wrong

Dear Doug,

I have a reply for a comment made by NBC's Bob Costas after the incredible Bear victory over Dallas, 44-0. I was hoping for more highlights, and Costas was running through the other NFL scores. He got to the Jets' 62-28 victory over the Buccaneers and made the incorrect assertion that the last time 60 or more points were scored in an NFL game was in 1973 when Atlanta did it to somebody. He's misinformed!! The Bears beat Green Bay 61-7 in 1980 (I remember it well — I'm sure you do, too). The Bears earned that recognition, and I wanted to make sure they got it.

Sincerely Yours,
Jeff Given
Lake Forest, IL

Hilarious Victory

Dear Doug:

I have never seen such a laugher in my life. When the Bears manhandled Dallas 44-0, I was never so happy for the Bear team in my life, except for the playoff victory last season. We have finally gotten back at Dallas. Not only did we pay them back for 14 years of defeat, but we gave them interest. I have never in my life seen anybody handle the Cowboys like that.

One thing I wonder is; what is it about Mike Tomczak when the Bears play Dallas. I know he didn't throw a pass against them, but the Bears seem to be able to move the ball at will against them when he's at quarterback. And don't forget, he threw his first touchdown pass against Dallas in the pre-season. I don't know if he will ever be the Bears' starting quarterback, but he is going to start somewhere, and he is going to be good.

What is wrong with Jim McMahon? Every single week he is either out of the lineup or is injured in some way. I think he is the greatest thing to happen to Chicago since Payton, but he is so fragile! We need him in there! I think Steve Fuller is an excellent quarterback who deserves to be in the NFL, but he just cannot get the Bears moving like Jim can. Jim has always been a leader and if the Bears even want to think of going to the Super Bowl this season, Jim MUST be in there.

Also, why is it that the Bears are not throwing to Kenny Margerum? He is a great receiver and even though he has dropped a few this year, he deserves much more than he is getting from the Bears. I think that Willie Gault is great, but Tom Landry said it best when he traded Golden Richards to the Bears: "He's too good to have been sitting on the bench." That applies to Kenny even more, so it hurts me to see his talent going to waste. He has only caught 11 passes this year (after 11 games) and will hopefully catch more by the time this letter is published. He is a super talent and must not be wasted.

Mike Ditka is a blessing. What he has done for the Bears cannot be matched. I only wish he could stay out of trouble. If he were caught DWI in Arizona, the Bears would have to finish the season without him and he would be out $1,000.

Finally, I just want to say to all the Bears that you have brought to us Bear fans what we have been begging for for too long now. We Bear fans are the hardest in the league to please and we know it. I'm sure that all the Bear fans out there want to join me in saying congratulations and keep up the good work. We certainly do appreciate it.

And though it seemed for many years
that no help would be found.
We knew not that in eighty-five
A winner would abound.
And though it's not quite over yet
The season's going fast.
And it warms our hearts to see
The Bears on top at last.

Patrick Tuerff
Phoenix, AZ

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking Causes Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, Emphysema, And May Complicate Pregnancy.

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SMOOTH RICH TASTE

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